



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

**January 2016**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SBHortSociety](http://www.facebook.com/SBHortSociety)  
 Contact: [sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com)

The Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society  
**Annual Potluck, Installation of Officers and the Bouquet of the Year Award**  
 will be held on January 6<sup>th</sup>, **6:30pm**  
 at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Road

Please join us for the Society's Annual Potluck. Come out to see old friends and come out to meet new ones. Doors open at 6:00pm, so please come early and help with the setup. Be sure to wear your name tag so everyone will know your name.

Bring your favorite dish to share for 8! Plates, utensils, napkins, and coffee will be provided. Please provide your own serving utensil for your dish. Labels are helpful to let everyone know what they're eating. (Great for people with food allergies too.)

**Voting for new officers and board members:** We will be installing the Society's Board for this coming year and the society is always looking for members interested in participating. Open positions are:

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

**Garden Tour:** There is no garden tour scheduled in January, but last month we had an opportunity to visit Sea Crest Nursery, which for many years has specialized in palms and cycads. We met Cristi Walden who enthusiastically guided us through what could only be described as Santa Barbara County's own Jurassic Park, framed with a fabulous ocean front view.



Cristi and a specimen *Cycas revoluta*



**Upcoming Meetings:**

February	Billy Goodnick
March	Robin Parer: <i>Endangered "Geraniums"</i>
April	Jay Ruskey: <i>Growing coffee, black truffles and other exotic crops in Santa Barbara County.</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 Little Garden 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** meeting will be held on the SECOND Friday of January, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for a 7:30pm start at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Gregg DeChirico will speak on *Exploring Madagascar*.



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## Not If, But When: Invasive Mosquitos and Disease

By Susan Chamberlin

I fear our future is filled with DEET. Yellow fever mosquitos (*Aedes aegypti*) and Asian tiger mosquitos (*Aedes albopictus*) have made their way from the Old World to the New World and are now found in numerous locations in California. Currently "they are not known to occur in Santa Barbara County," according to David Chang, the Director of the County's Mosquito and Vector Management District.



Asian tiger mosquito is distinguished by its stripes. Photo courtesy of Santa Barbara County Mosquito and Vector Management District

Other authorities report that in California there are no cases attributed to the mosquitos of yellow fever, chikungunya virus or dengue fever--the nasty, potentially fatal diseases these mosquitos transmit. That's because in order to spread disease, mosquitos have to bite an infected person and then bite somebody else. The assumption is that the mosquitos in California arrived as larvae in cargo shipments, then morphed and multiplied.

Infected travelers and immigrants or those few infected

people who are already here could introduce these diseases if they are bitten by mosquitos. The mosquito larvae (called wigglers) need only a teaspoon of water and a few days to hatch, so they can survive in bottle cap litter, cracks in pavement, persistent puddles, catch basins, improperly draining roof gutters, rain barrels, and unmaintained, algae infested swimming pools and spas. Those are the usual suspects, but gardens have lots of other things that catch and hold water including ornamental pools, bird baths, plant saucers, watering cans, cache pots, knotholes in trees, funnel-like bromeliad leaves (for example air plants, or *Tillandsia*), scoop-like agave fronds, bamboo internodes and bamboo culms (or canes) that are cut to the ground when they die leaving a woody tube.



Bromeliads, such as this queen's tears (*Billbergia nutans*), have funnel-like leaves that catch and hold water. *Photo by S. Chamberlin*

Because chikungunya virus is increasing in Mexico, it is widely believed that the question is not *if* this and yellow and dengue fever will appear in California but *when*. Mosquito-borne West Nile Virus is already in Santa Barbara, so it is wise in this El Nino year to survey your garden for places that retain water. Fill depressions in pavement with sand, mortar, or prepackaged asphalt, and toss "mosquito dunks" made from Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*, a bacterium that produces toxins that kill the larvae) in ponds once a month. In situations where they might wash away, tie a string through the center hole to anchor them. "Mosquito fish" are also effective. If you bring containers indoors to protect plants from frost, be sure your saucers are dumped promptly. These mosquito species can live indoors and breed in bath drains. Refresh birdbaths several times a week. Perhaps old bamboo culms can be filled with sand or caulk. While I can live without my air plants, I'm not sure I'm ready to rid my garden of the bromeliad know as queen's tears (*Billbergia nutans*). It produces wonderful flowers in that most difficult situation, dry shade.

Yellow fever and Asian tiger mosquitos are similar in appearance with dark and white striped legs. Both types are aggressive, meaning they will follow you indoors, and they bite during the day, not just at dusk. If you see one, call our Vector Director, David Chang, at 805-969-5050. For further information, visit the Mosquito and Vector Management website at [www.mvmdistrict.com](http://www.mvmdistrict.com) and click on *Surveillance*.

Happy New Year!



**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

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