



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

October 2017

Website: [www.sbchs.org](http://www.sbchs.org)

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The Santa Barbara County  
Horticultural Society  
October General Meeting  
will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm  
at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Rd

*Tour of Trinity Gardens 6:30pm before the meeting.*

### **Compost: The Latest Scoop on Soil**

**Matt Vogel**

Whether you're looking to start your very first composting system or you're already a pocket-composting pro, learn how to harness the magic of microbes without breaking your back or the bank. We will discuss recent theories and discoveries in soil science and how new discoveries are changing the way we think and talk about different materials. We will discuss commercial composting operations, composting at home, and compost systems at schools. We will see examples of successful composting systems and discuss organizations and programs pushing the envelope to bring soil back to the concrete jungle. We will also examine a number of different commercially available products on the market right now: what makes some soil worth its weight in gold, while other soil is dirt cheap? Come early to check out four different compost systems at Trinity Gardens during the pre-meeting tour.

Matthew Vogel serves as Community Service Coordinator for Trinity Gardens. He enjoys helping educators implement holistic farm-to-school practices that engage youth to steward their own environment. In 2015 he co-founded the Growing Edible Education Symposium, a non-profit tri-county initiative to spread best practices in farm-to-school implementation and celebrate the success of farm-to-school leaders in the Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo counties.

Matthew tries to visit as many new farms and gardens per year as he can. During the week you can usually find him at Trinity Gardens in Santa Barbara or at Island Seed and Feed in Goleta. Matthew holds a B.A. from UCLA in International Development Studies and a J.D. from the GW University Law School.

**Tour of Rincon-Vitova Insectaries, Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> 10:00 start time.** Plan for an hour to see the bug farm, maybe an hour and a half to pick up literature, seed samples, and to ask questions after we walk around. This event is for members only. Please remember to wear your membership badge. Take highway 33 North from highway 101, take the Shell Rd exit and make a series of lefts: Left on Shell Rd, left on Ventura Av, left on Orchard Dr. Go to end of the small street and veer left up into our driveway. There are a few parking spots up top, and a few more down the driveway further. A few people could also park in the street before you veer into our driveway.

**Great Turnout for our Garden Tour of Riviera Rendezvous.** Larry Falxa and Theodore (Ted) Plute were our gracious hosts and we thank them for allowing us to see their beautiful gardens. A real labor of love. Shown below from left, Duke and Ted under the Trumpet vine, and Larry with a Hibiscus flower.



*Larry by S. Chamberlin*



## Upcoming Meetings

November	Joint Meeting with California Rare Fruit Growers
February	Joan Bolton
March	Antonio Sanchez California Native Food Plants

Trent Barnhart [tbarnhart@sbzoo.org](mailto:tbarnhart@sbzoo.org) has informed us about a relatively new program going on at the **Santa Barbara Zoo** which might interest our members. 'We are currently accepting donations of plant trimmings as a food source for our animals here at the Zoo. There are several common species that grow in our area that can be utilized as a food source. We accept freshly cut (non-chemically treated) trimmings of willow, fig, bamboo, bird of paradise and several other species. Please visit our website to learn more about what species we accept and the criteria involved along with how to schedule the donation. [www.sbzoo.org/browse](http://www.sbzoo.org/browse)'

**Lost and Found:** At the last general meeting, members lost several water bottles, and at the Sale Carol lost her red Felco pruner. Please bring to the next meeting if you found them.

**Thanks for all the help** at the Plant Sale to everyone who helped! More to come on that soon!

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](mailto:lindabuzzell@gmail.com)

## SBC Rose Society Thursday, October 12, 7pm

Santa Barbara Rose Society will present...

### Free Fall Holiday Pumpkin and Succulent Arrangement Workshop!



Champion arranger Hetty Shurtleff and Maxine Jagiello will demonstrate how to make amazing, long-lasting displays for the Fall Holidays. Then you'll be able to make

your own pumpkins and succulent arrangements to take home! Later, we will do a demonstration of a fall arrangement in a pumpkin!

*SB Cactus & Succulent Society Refreshments & Socializing begin at 7:00 pm. The Little Rose Show starts at 7:15 pm and our Arrangements Workshop begins at 7:30 pm. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church on La Cumbre at Foothill. Guests are always welcome!*

**Please bring:** a small to medium sized pumpkin and succulents cuttings and seed pods you may have in your garden plus your clippers. We will supply moss and glue!

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

**Orchid Society of Santa Barbara presents**

## Falling for Orchids Show & Sale

**Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History**  
2559 Puesta del Sol Road,  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

**Vendors:**  
Ambriz Kingdom of Plants  
Orchid Design  
Orchids of Los Osos  
Seed Engel

**Saturday Nov. 18**  
10 am - 5 pm  
**Sunday Nov. 19**  
10 am - 3 pm

**Museum admission:**  
Adult (18-64 years) \$12  
Senior (65+ years) \$8  
Teen (13-17 years) \$8  
Child (2-12 years) \$7  
Child (under 2 years) Free  
**Sunday is free!**

info: <http://orchidsb.org/>

**AOS, CSA & Ribbon Judging • Spectacular Displays • Beautiful Orchid Sales**

Poster design by angelic@orchidesign.com

## Pushover for Plants

by Susan Chamberlin



*Zephyranthes candida* is a bulb I learned years ago when I was lucky to be one of the editors of George Harmon Scott's essential book, *Bulbs: How to Select, Grow and Enjoy*. Commonly called rain lily or zephyr flower, this perennial bulb naturalizes and can form large colonies that resemble grass until rain (or irrigation) brings out the little, white flowers. I'm a pushover for pretty plants. When I spotted what looked like clumps of *Zephyranthes* bulbs on steroids at a local nursery not long ago, I was drawn to it like a moth to a flame. It wasn't until I got it home that I noticed a label on the container, which I had failed to see because I was focused on the flowers. It said, *Milla biflora*. Thus began an epic internet quest to discover what that plant was.

Labeled *Milla biflora* at the nursery, this may actually be a *Zephyranthes*.  
Photo credit: S. Chamberlin

*Milla biflora*, commonly called Mexican star, is native from Arizona through to Texas, Mexico, and Guatemala at elevations of about 3,000 to 9,000 feet. It grows from corms that produce grassy foliage and white flowers with a green stripe on the back of each of the petals. Photos of the flowers were more instructive than the texts, and after studying them on numerous web sites I'm convinced that what I have is, in fact, a *Zephyranthes*. Not only do my flowers lack green stripes, their stigmas are not as prominent, and the stamens are different. Also convincing were two pictures posted on the Pacific Bulb Society web site by Nhu Nguyen of *Zephyranthes* growing at the U.C. Botanical Garden in Berkeley. The white flowers were much larger than usual. Their origin was Argentina.

It turns out that there are about 70 species of *Zephyranthes* native to the southern parts of the United States, Mexico, Central and South America and the West Indies. Many naturalize here and in tropical places around the globe. There are also numerous cultivars. Especially popular in the south are pink varieties, but there are several other colors. Some like rich, wet soils, and some are fairly drought resistant, appearing after it rains. I called C Star Nursery, the wholesale grower in Gardena that propagated what I purchased. They said their stock came from the old Mayflower Nursery years ago and was labeled *Milla biflora*.

To get to the bottom of this, so to speak, I dug into the container. What I saw bore the characteristics of bulbs, not corms. So it looks like I have a *Zephyranthes*--species unknown. However, now that I've seen photos of *Milla biflora* with its pretty, green stripes, I want that too.



**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