



The Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society November General Meeting will be held on November 4th, 7:00pm at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Road

Champion Trees of Santa Barbara County and How to Find Them

presented by Kenneth Knight

Santa Barbara County is home to ten trees that are the largest of their species in the entire United States. We'll be reviewing these trees, the conditions that make them thrive, and the challenges they face. We'll also explore how you can get involved in the hunt for champion trees. Anyone with a sense of curiosity and a little luck can identify a champion, and possibly end up in the record books as a champion tree identifier, at least until someone finds a bigger one!

Ken Knight is an independent Consulting Arborist



(www.goletaarborists.com) based in Goleta working with governments, individuals, developers and other arborists to provide expert recommendations on a variety of tree related matters. Ken has certifications as an Arborist, Municipal Specialist, Urban Forester, and a Tree Risk Assessment Certification from the International Society of Arboriculture,

and a Registered Consulting Arborist #507 with the American Society of Consulting Arborists. In another lifetime, Ken worked in local government at a City Planner, Community Development Director, Senior Management Analyst, and City Manager.

Ken also has a long career in volunteer nonprofit work planting and caring for thousands of trees in Santa Barbara County, initially with Goleta Valley Beautiful, and now with Your Children's Trees, and Your Children's Trees at UCSB. Ken also serves as Co-Chair of the Central Coast Chapter of the California Urban Forests Council, a statewide group advocating for urban forestry.



*Sister Witness Tree, Goleta
By Ken Knight*

Garden Tours: There is no Society garden tour scheduled for next month.

Upcoming Meetings

December	Greg Kitajima: <i>An Introduction To Aesthetic Pruning.</i>
January	Annual Potluck
February	Billy Goodnick
March	Robin Parer

Other Plant Society meetings and events:

SBC Rose Society meets the second Thursday of the month at the Louise Lowry Davis Center at 7:30pm.

The Little Garden Club meets at the Natural History Museum at 2:00pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society meets Friday, November 6th at 7:30pm at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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



44th Annual Floral Arrangement Show presented by Las Floralias and SBCC Center for Lifelong Learning.

November 21-22, Saturday 10-5, Sunday, 11-3

Location: Schott Center

310 W. Padre, Santa Barbara

We have floral arrangements and succulent wreaths for sale. Original floral calendars also for sale.

\$5 donation at the door to benefit public school art programs.

Daily floral demonstrations at 1 pm.

Tillandsia (Air Plant) Extravaganza & Succulent Plant Sale

Sunday, November 15, 2015 from 11am until 3pm.

Diane Dunhill's Garden

3673 San Gabriel Lane, SB

(Off Ontare Road or McCaw Ave. behind the SB Municipal Golf Course.) 805 682-0529

dianedunhill@gmail.com

Tillandsias are wired, ready to hang and some are in fun containers. Sizes from 1" to 4'.

Lots now with fragrant flowers. Succulents will be discounted. Bring friends....Rain or shine....

57th Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House

Saturday November 7, 8 AM to 5 PM

Sunday November 8, 9 AM to 4 PM



Laelia anceps var. veitchiana

Our *Fall Open House* celebrates Mexican *Laelia* species: diversely colored aneeps, fragrant autumnalis, and vibrant gouldiana, and their hybrids. Plus

Cymbidium tracyanum and its hybrids.

Stenoglottis and *Oncidium*s. View plants offered on our 2015 Silent Auction. Search through the \$7.50 specials.

Help!

The society could use some additional volunteers to help with the various open positions and some small jobs that need to get done. Open positions include *Programs* and *Hospitality* and someone to lend technical help with the *Website* (not updated since April). We also have numerous small jobs: such as printing labels for our mailings. Also, please make an effort to sign up for refreshments!

Milkweeds and Monarchs: Better Safe Than Sorry.

By Susan Chamberlin

There was a tiny article by Carolina Starin in the *Santa Barbara Independent* not long ago with the title, "Tropical Milkweed Threatens Monarchs"-- that's butterflies, not Elizabeth II and Filipe VI. She quoted Frederique Lavoipierre, Director of Education at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, on the dangers of tropical milkweed, which attracts monarchs to lay their eggs as readily as the native species. Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on milkweed, but the tropical species harbors a protozoan parasite that weakens them in many ways with the eventual result being a decrease in butterfly breeding. An additional problem with tropical milkweed is that it blooms all year. This encourages monarchs to continue to lay their eggs year-round, not hang in clusters from the trees in winter in a state that used to be called "hibernating" by school teachers explaining reproductive diapause to kids like me. Native milkweed is dormant in winter. That dormancy is the reason for a natural pause in butterfly breeding and the key to breaking the parasite life cycle.

In one amusing paragraph, Starin stated that "well-intentioned gardeners opt for the tropical milkweed because of the misconception that Santa Barbara's monarchs migrate to Mexico to feed on such species." Yes, we who have planted tropical milkweed were well-intentioned in our desire to perpetuate monarchs, but the reason we planted it is *because* it is evergreen. Also the danger to monarchs from this perennial were not widely known as scientific studies are just reaching the popular press now, and more to the point, with the exception of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, it is the only species available at local nurseries. We never believed our monarchs migrated to Mexico because we could see them every January hanging from the eucalyptus trees at Ellwood, or near the

Stow House, or (before many of its trees were cut down) on Butterfly Lane in Montecito.

The article concluded with the advice to prune off tropical milkweed's flowers in late November to early December or replace the plants with native milkweed. (Some experts advise different pruning strategies.) Only "the native" was pictured, and no scientific names were supplied for either milkweed, so the subsequent issue clarified that tropical



milkweed is *Asclepias curassavica* (pictured) and that the native *Asclepias*

fascicularis is the one to plant. For the moment let's ignore that there are actually several species of milkweed native to Santa Barbara County as well as numerous others native throughout the State and the fact that monarch butterflies like to overwinter in non-native eucalyptus trees to get to the punchline: a website where you can apply for free *A. fascicularis* seed was noted, but upon visiting it I learned that the seed is not recommended for anyone living within 10 miles of the coast.

I don't really want it anyway. My garden is too small for winter-dormant plants plus all the other things I want to grow. After further research on the topic, I pruned off the flowers on my tropical milkweed by sending the entire plant to green waste. Better safe than sorry.

Photo by S. Chamberlin of the popular tropical milkweed cultivar Asclepias curassavica 'Silky Mix' that has orange, red, and yellow flowers.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to Carol Bornstein, Director of the Nature Gardens at the Natural History Museum Los Angeles.



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

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Co-Presidents and Secretary:
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Newsletter: Ernie Pfadenhauer
Bulletin Distribution: Larry Disharoon
Plant Sale and PR: Carol Terry
Refreshments: Elisa Reich
Scholarships: Dorothy Warnock
Hospitality: 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