



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

August 2017

Website: www.sbchs.org
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The Santa Barbara County
 Horticultural Society
 August General Meeting
 will be held on August 2nd, 7:00pm
 at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre
 Road

Speaker: Frederique Lavoipierre

The Good, the Bad, and the Bugly

Our gardens are full of insects! What are they and what are they all doing there? Some are welcome pollinators such as honey and native bees. Other garden allies are predators, eating the insects, mites, and other small critters that plague our plants. Learn how you can put these good guys to work in your garden to manage pests without pesticides. Like pollinators, many predators eat pollen and nectar, but unlike pollinators, for only part of their life cycle. There is more to it than simply growing the flowers that attract pollinating insects. Get the tips you need to plan and plant a great habitat that invites all the garden allies that can help keep your garden beautiful! *Photos by Frederique Lavoipierre.*



Frederique Lavoipierre is the Director of Education



at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, where the focus is on California native plants, and the emphasis is on two of her passions – science and horticulture. She is the author of *Garden Allies*, a

Photo by Stacy Bloodworth

series for *Pacific Horticulture* magazine,

on how to create habitat that welcomes insects and other wildlife. She holds a Master’s degree in Biology from Sonoma State University, where her focus was on sustainable landscape practices and designing habitat for beneficial insects. Her research emphasis was conservation biological control. At SSU, Frederique was the founding director of the Sustainable Landscape Program, where she also developed and managed the Entomology Outreach and Garden Classroom programs. She loves giving presentations on plant/insect interactions and is not sure which she loves best: plants or insects.

Upcoming Meetings

September	Fall Plant Forum Mike Tully, Randy Baldwin, Bruce Reed
October	Composting ABC’s
November	Joint Meeting with California Rare Fruit Growers
February	Joan Bolton

We are preparing for our *annual fundraising sale on September 23rd*. It's time to think about what plants you can propagate and donate for the sale. Those members who are caring for leftover plants from last year - please remember to bring them in for the raffle table or prepare them for this year's sale. If you have any suggestions for plants that we should include in our sale please see Carol Terry at the meeting or email her at plantnuts@verizon.net

All members are encouraged to contribute to the **raffle table** offerings. At this season many of us have a special plant that is looking good (in bloom or not). Please consider contributing it to the diversity of the raffle table. Clearly labeled with perhaps a note about culture; any plant is welcome.



Above is *Puya alpestris* in bloom in Barry Osborne's yard. This drought-resistant Chilean species receives only rainwater in Barry's garden. Like many other plants in our area it seems to have responded in glorious fashion to the copious rainfall this season.

Other Plant Society meetings and events:

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.

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society meets the 4th of August, Friday 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

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



Night of the Living Bougainvillea

By Susan Chamberlin

Independent filmmaker George A. Romero died on July 16th. *Night of the Living Dead*, his classic 1968 zombie movie, is now considered a genre pioneer because, although the dead were summoned from the grave, the subtext of the story was social critique. It played at the Airport Drive-In Theatre in Goleta when I worked there in the early 70s. Back then it was considered a reliable popcorn movie, not a masterpiece—people made trips to the snack bar during the sequences they didn't want to watch.

The title for this article, *Night of the Living Bougainvillea*, came to me more than a year ago when I noticed that a *Bougainvillea* that I thought was dead and gone was sprouting from its roots at the base of our house. It was impossible to shield the plant when the house was tented for termites in 2011. By all appearances this had killed it, so I had the large stump dug out. I wasn't sorry to see it go. It was there when we moved in, a 'Barbara Karst' cultivar that grew so fast constant pruning couldn't prevent it from blocking the basement door, and its magenta-red colored bracts clashed with my neighbor's tecomaria hedge (*Tecoma capensis*). The house looked naked without it, so I relocated a potted giant bird of paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*) to the bare spot while I figured out what to plant next. Then the drought hit, and most planting was put on hold. The buckets of shower warm-up water I dumped on the *Strelitzia* in the ensuing years apparently stimulated some buried root bits, which made the *Bougainvillea* rise from its grave.

'Barbara Karst' is one of at least 75 cultivars of *Bougainvillea*. Most sources say it will come back fast after a frost. The implication is vigorous roots, so perhaps that explains its resurrection. All 14 species of *Bougainvillea* originate in Latin America and all have inconspicuous flowers surrounded by colorful bracts. Crosses among the main three species have produced both new hybrid species and the many cultivated varieties. The huge, old *Bougainvillea* on the entry façade of the Santa Barbara County Courthouse is an early cultivar called 'San Diego Red'. A prominent feature of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park, its bracts are red tinged with orange.



Bougainvillea is named after the French explorer Louis Antoine de Bougainville, who set off in 1766 on a round-the-world expedition taking the naturalist Philibert Commerçon and his assistant Jean along to collect plants. Commerçon was the first European to describe *Bougainvillea*, which was collected in Brazil. However, some assume that Jean collected it because Commerçon was confined to the ship with a bad leg. Jean was actually a woman named Jeanne Baré (or Baret). She was an herbalist and Commerçon's lover who was forced to disguise herself as a man to accompany him on the voyage because women were not allowed on French Naval ships. She is the first female to circumnavigate the globe. The subtext of her story is also social critique.

Bougainvillea 'San Diego Red' at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse. This cultivar became popular after the 1915 exposition in San Diego.
Photo Credit: S. Chamberlin



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PO BOX 31029
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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