



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

**April 2016**

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

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The Santa Barbara County  
 Horticultural Society

April General Meeting

will be held on Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm  
 at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Road

**Upcoming Meetings:**

May	Paul Mills: <i>Chile - North to South</i>
June	Chet Work: Land Trust for Santa Barbara County <i>Topic TBA</i>
July	TBD
August	Fairview Gardens
September	Plant Forum
October	Fred Brander <i>Los Olivos American Viticultural Area</i>
November	Steve Windhager: Santa Barbara Botanical Garden <i>How will our Garden grow? Plans for SBBG in the next decade</i>

***Growing Coffee, Black Truffles and  
 other Exotic Crops in Santa Barbara  
 County***

*presented by Jay Ruskey*

Jay Ruskey, owner of Good Land Organics, has  
 been commercially growing organic exotic  
 tree crops for the last 24 years. At our April  
 meeting he will discuss new commercial crops



for Santa Barbara: Coffee and Truffles. His crops  
 also include: cherimoyas, passionfruit, caviar limes,  
 avocados and a variety of other sub-tropical fruits.  
 Recently Jay has expanded his operation into  
 two new crops: arabica coffee for coastal growing  
 zones and Oaks inoculated with black truffles for  
 cooler inland locations. Jay offers consulting for farms  
 interested in diversifying their orchards with the best  
 potential and exotic crop to suit their property. He  
 specializes within Santa Barbara County and  
 throughout the Southern California coastal cities.



**Garden Tour:**

The April Garden Tour will be ***Saturday April 9  
 from 10 to 12 noon, at 2014 Garden St., Santa  
 Barbara.*** Virginia Gardner has opened her native  
 plant garden to us. Her garden, designed by Terra  
 Edwards, won the Native Choice Award from  
 SBBG under the umbrella of SB Beautiful. Of

course many things have changed by  
 Virginia and her volunteer seedlings in  
 the 14 years since Terra designed it. The  
 house was designed by A. Page Brown  
 in 1894.

This event is for current members only.  
 Please wear your name badge!

## Easter Lily Vine and Other Stories

By Susan Chamberlin

A beautiful jumble of white Lady Banks' roses and Easter lily vine on Santa Barbara Street stopped me in my tracks not long ago, and reminded me that Dr. Franceschi (born Emanuele Fenzi\*) introduced *Beaumontia grandiflora* to the region, according to his former partner, Peter Riedel. It's a pretty good bet that it was not here when Franceschi arrived from Los Angeles in 1893 because he surveyed the exotic (meaning not native) plants in the County then wrote about them in *Santa Barbara Exotic Flora*, his essential 1895 book. *Beaumontia grandiflora* is not in it. Native to the Himalayas, he probably first grew it from seed. But was Franceschi the first to introduce it to the state of California?

One of the few scholarly examinations on the subject of plant introductions was produced by Harry Butterfield (1887-1970), a U.C. Extension Agent who wrote booklets for the Agricultural Experiment Station and numerous garden history articles. I waded into the Franceschi plant introductions quagmire years ago by trying to separate the things on Butterfield's lists attributed to Franceschi from about 800 plants attributed to him by Peter Riedel, which the late, great Will Beittel rendered as lists in his wonderful little booklet published by our society in 1984.+

Methodology (as we used to say in graduate school): I took a magnifying glass to lists Butterfield compiled by comparing old nursery catalogs and counted the entries he labeled "Fenzi" or "Montarioso" (the name given to Franceschi's Southern California Acclimatizing Association nursery after his acrimonious split from Riedel.)

I concluded that about 200 plants from Riedel's book that were also on Butterfield's lists were Franceschi introductions to the State. These and the remaining plants Riedel noted were Franceschi introductions to the Santa Barbara region. Some of the things Butterfield attributed to Franceschi were not noted by Riedel, nor were a number of plants that other authorities attribute to him on either list.

Among Franceschi's introductions to the State are coral tree (*Erythrina caffra*), clivia (*Clivia miniata*), purple orchid tree (*Bauhinia variegata* or *B. purpurea*), Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*), Bailey acacia (*Acacia baileyana*), natal plum (*Carissa grandiflora* or *C. macrocarpa*), pineapple guava (*Feijoa* or *Acca sellowiana*), and zucchini squash (said David Fairchild). On the other hand, New Zealand tea tree (*Leptospermum scoparium*), which Riedel says Franceschi introduced, was first sold by Nolan's Belleview Nursery in Oakland in 1871, according to Butterfield, and so on.



Of course new research might reveal new information, and people are not infallible. My lists published in *Pacific Horticulture* failed to note *Erythrina caffra* as a Franceschi introduction to California. Never the less, 200 is far from the figure of 900 plants introduced to California often attributed to Franceschi by people who never did a comparative analysis. Oh well. I believe his research and writings are more important than his plant introductions anyway.

As for Easter lily vine--it appears on Butterfield's list of vines, but there is no date or attribution. Perhaps the answer to who introduced it is in Butterfield's original materials or perhaps it doesn't matter.

The large trumpets of Easter lily vine (*Beaumontia grandiflora*) mixed with the fading blossoms of white Lady Banks' rose (*Rosa banksiae* var. *banksiae* or 'Alba Plena'). Easter lily vine was introduced to Santa Barbara by Dr. Franceschi, who noted that white Lady Banks' rose was already here when he arrived. Both are evergreen. *Photo credit: S. Chamberlin*

## Notes & References:

\*Franceschi changed his name when he left Italy. Franceschi (not Fenzi) is the standard name that appears in the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, *Authors of Plant Names*.

+Beittel, Will. *Dr. F. Franceschi: Pioneer Plantsman*. Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society, 1984. Riedel's work originally appears in his 1957 book, *Plants for Extra-Tropical Regions*.

Butterfield, Harry M. "Dates of Introduction of Trees and Shrubs to California" (a typewritten manuscript reproduced by the Landscape Horticulture Dept. at U.C. Davis, August 1964, which also includes many bulbs and vines.)

Chamberlin, Susan. "The Life of Dr. Francesco Franceschi and His Park." *Pacific Horticulture* 63:3 (July 2002), 4-12 (Part I) and 63:4 (Oct. 2002), 13-20 (Part II).

**Help!** The society is looking for members interested in participating. There is an open position for *Programs*.

**Dues for 2016 are payable now:** \$20/year for a family membership can be paid at the meeting or sent to the address on the back of this newsletter (POB 31029, Santa Barbara) for one year or multiple years. *Please make an effort to become current on your payments and help support our programs and meeting costs.*



Dendrobium speciosum 'Equinox' - Best Orchid of the 2016 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

### 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 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.

**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.

**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 the first Friday of the month at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at 7:30pm.



**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: 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