



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Celebrating plants since 1880

SBCHS.ORG

MARCH 2020

Upcoming Speakers

December

- *Chaparral Plant Adaptions and Patterns of Recovery After Wildfire*
Matt Kay

January

- *Italian Gardens*
Leland Walmsley

February

- *Earth Tide Botanicals*
Alena Steen

A Fabulous Garden Tour

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 23, when an exquisite private garden, Arequipa, opens its doors for this rare, members-only garden tour.



Inspired by Santa Barbara's landscape architectural legacy and the region's mild climate, Arequipa is a series of gardens surrounding a new home of historic Mediterranean style and regional materials with a flair for the exotic. Set *see pg 3...*

More News Inside

- Garden Tours Are Back
- Horticultural Events Around Town
- A Recap of Our Annual Plant Sale, Including Thanks to Our Donors
- It's Time to Renew Your Annual Dues

March General Meeting - Wednesday, March 4, 2019, 7 p.m.
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Roads

Dr. Anabel Ford on *Exploring Solutions Past: The Maya Forest Garden as Action for Climate Change*

If we want to care for the earth and its people, we need to take action. How can we reduce temperature, increase biodiversity, conserve water, build fertility, and reduce erosion?

Plant useful trees for food, construction, medicine, beauty and habitat!

It is no accident that the dominant Maya forest plants are all useful. Generations, centuries and millennia of

occupation by the ancient Maya have created a managed mosaic landscape. Today, there are tenacious Maya farmers, heroes who maintain forest gardens based on rich traditional knowledge, creating the most diverse domestic system in the world.

Understanding the value of the Maya farming and the knowledge of the traditional smallholders is a requisite for conservation designs for the future, one that we are applying directly at the El Pilar Archaeological Reserve for Maya Flora and Fauna of Belize and Guatemala. Today, Maya forest gardeners' intimate knowledge of their landscape as a model is slipping away with each departure of an elder. How are we promote a sustainable co-creative process between people and their environment that can provide inspiration for people all over our planet?

Dr. Anabel Ford is director of the MesoAmerican Research Center at UCSB and President of the nonprofit Exploring Solutions Past: The Maya Forest Alliance. Her research focuses on the ancient Maya landscape, combining archaeological settlement *see pg 2...*



Anabel Ford, from pg 1

survey with traditional ecological knowledge. Her quest to understand the ancient Maya landscape has grown and branched into several areas of research: How did the Maya interact with the forest? How did climate change and geography affect settlement patterns? And how were population expansions and contractions related to the environment?

Dr. Ford has been able to address these diverse yet interrelated themes from detailed investigation of architecture to artifacts. She has tracked the economic and spatial patterns of the Maya of El Pilar, a major center she discovered and mapped in 1983, and which now is a binational park in Belize and Guatemala.

Most relevant to our challenges of the 21st century, Dr. Ford's work demonstrates that the Maya were able to prosper over millennia with a distinctly local relationship to the tropical environment she calls the Maya forest garden, showcased at El Pilar.

Our 2020 Directors & Committee Chairs

2019 Board Members

- *President:* Debby Lipp
- *Vice President:* Duke McPherson
- *Secretary:* Bryn Crutchfield
- *Treasurer:* Gretchen Ingmanon
- *Director:* Carol Terry, Diane Dunhill, Carolyn Koegler, Dorothy Warnock, Jill Cloutier

2019 Committee Chairs

- *Garden Tours:* Bryn Crutchfield
- *Membership:* Duke McPherson
- *Newsletter Editor:* Joan S. Bolton
- *Newsletter Distribution:* Larry Disharoon
- *Plant Sale:* Carol Terry -- But soon to be OPEN!
- *Plant Sale Assistant:* OPEN
- *Programs:* Debby Lipp
- *Programs Assistant:* Duke McPherson
- *Publicity:* OPEN
- *Refreshments:* Elisa Reich
- *Scholarships:* Dorothy Warnock
- *Social Media:* Jill Cloutier

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Newsletter inquiries or event listings only:
 joan_hortsociety@santabarbaragardens.com

Horticultural Events Around Town

Friday, November 1*Late Winter Wild Flowers of the Western Cape*

Tom Glavich

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society

For much of the Western Cape, flowering plants are limited, with only photos to help us understand how pollinators live in this challenging



environment. The Coast of western South Africa varies from the extremely damp Cape Point to the very arid Richtersveld. A few species cover the entire range, changing appearance as the environment changes. Many are local endemics. Glavich will look at both, paying attention to what plants grow in groups to provide a changing palette for the insects that pollinate the plants. Tom is a long-time grower of succulent plants and a frequent speaker at Succulent Societies throughout Southern California. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Free.

Saturday, November 2*Best Bare-Root Fruit Trees to Plant Locally*

A guided discussion and volunteer work party. 10:30 a.m. - noon. Mesa Harmony Garden, 1740 Cliff Drive. Free.

Saturday & Sunday, November 2 & 3*32nd Annual Fall Open House*

Cal-Orchid

Shop for premier orchids and take a first look at what Cal-Orchid has stocked for the upcoming season. You'll find lots of Laelia anceps to choose from, along with blocks of Epidendrums. Neofinetia seedlings bred from Cal-Orchid's select strains are also nicely established and are expected to fly off the benches.



9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day. 1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara (on Patterson Mesa). Free.

Top Right: Pelargonium praemorsum by Tom Glavich. Above Right: Cal-Orchid co-owner Lauris Rose with a smattering of the nursery's many Epidendrums, by Joan S. Bolton.