

On the Dry Side

MAY 2013

CCCSS April Meeting Recap

4/14/2013

The general membership meeting of the Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society was convened by President **Charles Varni** on April 14, 2013, in the assembly room of the San Luis Obispo County Library. After welcoming visitors and thanking the members who provided snacks, the tee-shirt contest was announced and entries were posted on the bulletin board to be voted on by the members in attendance. The design submitted by *On the Dry Side* editor **Terry Excell** received the most votes. Thank you to everyone who entered the contest, and congratulations to Terry.

The upcoming S&S (Show & Sale) was discussed and people were encouraged to pick out their favorite plant and enter it in the show, even if it will be their first time. Anyone entering for the very first time is a Rookie and as such is eligible for a big ribbon for the most impressive rookie entry. And don't forget that entries are judged against other entries in their class only, not against all entries in the show. There are three classes of entries: Novice/ **Green Entry Card**, for exhibitors who have won ten or less blue ribbons previously and includes Rookies (Rookies should be certain to check the "first time" box); Advanced/ **Yellow Entry Card**, for all other amateur entrants with more than ten blue ribbons; and Open/ **Pink Entry Card**, for professional/ commercial growers and anyone else who is comfortable competing with the Big Guys. There are sixty-four horticultural classifications for show entries and the classification number must be included on the entry card. Those numbers are in the Show Schedule (interior) on the club's website.

<http://centralcoastcactus.org/annualshow.html>

The S&S will begin on Friday between 5:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. at the Ludwick Center. During this time the S&S will be set up and the vendors will be setting up. People will be dropping off boxes (you are saving boxes, right?). Show exhibitors will be bringing in and setting up their plants, along with any props that may be needed for staging. Plants should not be wet and, in fact, should not be watered during the week prior to the show. They must be pest-free and cleaned of debris. Each plant should have an entry card which has the correct name and classification. Plants entered in the show must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least six months prior to the show, with an exception for plants purchased at the Holiday party.

Volunteers are needed for setting up Friday evening, for staffing during the event, and to take it all down again late Sunday afternoon. Pat Gilson and Loring Manley are recruiting volunteers. Note that a special trip is being planned that will be available to S&S volunteers at a reduced rate. More information appears in the Board of Directors meeting notes. Please also note that volunteering means actual work at some aspect of the S&S and volunteers should be signed up with Pat and/or Loring. Because of the great interest in field trips, only volunteers who have signed up with Pat and/or Loring will be eligible for the discounted price.

New Business included an announcement that elections will be held at the May meeting and at the time of the April meeting there were several vacant positions, including Vice President, currently held by **Markus Mumper**, whose work schedule makes it impossible for him to continue. The most critical function of the Vice President is arranging for the monthly special speakers, and we thank Markus for the enjoyable and educational results of his efforts. The other open position is that of Publicity Chairperson, currently held by **Wayne Mills**. Wayne has done this job for years and thinks it's time he lets someone else have the pleasure of dealing with the local media. Thanks, Wayne, for your many years of service as Publicity Chairman.

The Plant-of-the-Month presentation was given by **Gene Schroeder** on the topic of *Mammillaria*. They are popular and easy to grow and often produce showy flowers. Their growth pattern is spiral – a Fibonacci spiral [tip: search the internet for "images of Fibonacci cactus" – beautiful!]. Please refer to Gene's article in the April 2013 issue of *On the Dry Side*.

CCCSS April Meeting Recap Continued

Following Gene's presentation, **Rob Skillin** described the plants on the Brag Table and on the Raffle Tables, and the meeting took a break for snacks, visiting and buying stuff, including raffle tickets and the pottery of **Charles Varni**, **Ben Trogdon** and **Richard Rowe**.

Several other announcements were made: one of our Cal Poly student members is asking for plants and/or cuttings for an AIDS succulent garden. Charles Varni has more information. Rob Skillin has materials for entering the upcoming CSSA Show at The Huntington Gardens on June 28, 29 & 30.

Nick Wilkinson, **Gene Schroder** and **Rob Skillin** presented a program on staging plants for competitive shows. The first thing to remember is that the purpose of entering is to share information and to enjoy yourself while doing this – but you have to enter in order to get the enjoyment. Folks who eventually stopped resisting and finally entered plants are always willing to testify that it's a good thing. So you can do it! Pick your favorite plant; keep it simple; clean it up (bugs, dead matter); clean and shine up the pot. The biggest mistake you can make? *Don't enter*.

Gene recommends taking a small tool kit to the show with you to fix up any accidental boo-boos. His kit includes top dressing, cleaning stuff: tweezers, toothbrush, skewers; spoon for top dressing; knife; clippers; spray bottle (with vinegar solution for removing spots??). He recommends a revolving Lazy Susan for ease in staging larger plants.

Nick discussed the potting process and recommends that you start with the plant and then select a pot that compliments it in some way, such as mimicking some feature or color. He suggests that the plant not be placed too deeply into the pot and says that he likes to see the plant somewhat mounded above the rim.

Judges reputedly look for a clean, well-grown plant without elongated growth due to changing light or fertilizer conditions ... the focus is on condition and maturity. Staging is not as important, although it could be the tipping point in otherwise equal specimens. Remember that the judges also grow succulents and are familiar with them and how they are supposed to look. And don't forget that the judges do not appreciate ceramic frogs or purple rocks.

With the exception of dish gardens, there should be only one plant per pot. Pots should be presentable; WD40 is said to hide the white crud, which can be ground off with a pumice eraser or sandpaper. Acidified water in a spray bottle may remove water spots caused by hard water (1 Tablespoon vinegar per gallon of water). Our experts recommend that any repotting for the show be done now so that the plants will be stabilized by then.

The meeting was adjourned following the two raffles and the plant exchange.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Moss, Secretary

SHOWING A PLANT? SEE THE DETAILED/HIGHLIGHTED INSTRUCTIONS IN CAROL'S APRIL MEETING RECAP

HELP!

The club will supply Pizza & Sandwiches for the volunteer workers at the show & sale. However, we will still need additional snacks & beverages, primarily bottled water. If you wish to help with this, please contact Pat Gilson.

We also need some additional volunteers for various duties during the S & S. Thank You!

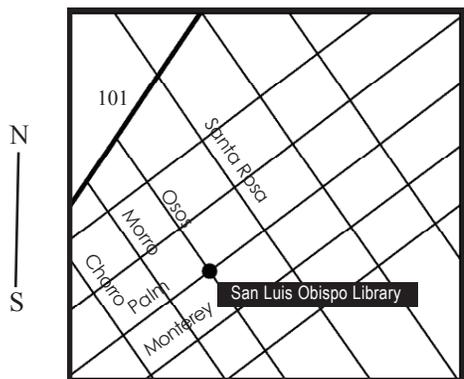
Contacts for volunteering: Pat Gilson hupt74@att.net, 481-5596
or Loring Manley loring.manley@gmail.com, 934-3246.

NEXT MEETING:

Sun. May 12 at
2:00 pm

San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo



SPEAKER OF THE MONTH FOR MAY

Ken Levine

Ken Levine is a charter member of the Friends of the [San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden](#), and a retired veterinarian from Arroyo Grande. Three of his favorite things include plants, traveling and the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. He enjoys taking pictures and sharing his experiences.



This month Ken will present a slide show from the trip he and his wife, Gaby, took to the Canary Islands, Africa. The presentation will show typical scenes from several of the Canary Islands. Featured will be remnants of the laurel forests that dominated the Mediterranean Basin before the ice age, and also botanical gardens on 2 of the islands that featured succulents endemic to those islands.

The Spotts' Auction

On Saturday, April 27, the first of two auctions was held at the home of Charles and Joann Spotts. Charles and Joann were fantastic hosts; food and beverages were supplied in abundance.



Woody Minnich was the auctioneer and he was aided by the lovely Karen Ostler. Besides many local/familiar faces, there were bidders from other CSSA affiliates and the orient.

The bidding was fast and furious on most of the plants; but the star of the show was an *Ariocarpus fissuratus* that gleaned a whopping \$530.



After the official auction, Charles allowed the participants to peruse his greenhouse and purchase other plants. (Carol and Wayne caught checking out the greenhouse)

I highly recommend attending the next auction to experience the beauty of his amazing plants and perhaps come home with a new acquisition. The time and date will be announced in a future newsletter.

LIBRARY NEWS.....by Gene Schroeder

Gene will not be present at the May meeting, therefore, there will be no library books to check out.

He has completed the clubs book list. It will be included as a PDF with the eNewsletter or you can view it on line at the clubs website. If you would like to check-out one of the more uncommon books, please contact Gene so he can bring it to the June meeting.

There are still a few M.I.A. books out there.... please check your home for any "strays".

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

The winner of the 7th Annual Show & Sale t-shirt contest was Terry Excell (your humble newsletter editor). The design is an abstracted *Aloe nobilis variegata* on a colonial blue t-shirt.

Susan Waidner (aka. "Braids") will have them for sale at the May meeting and at the S & S for the incredible price of \$10.



By your request, Susan has also ordered tote bags with the club logo. They cost \$2 each.

Get your items early for best selection

PLANT OF THE MONTH MAY

REBUTIA

BY MARKUS MUMPER

FAMILY: Cactaceae
SUBFAMILY: Cactoideae
TRIBE: Trichocereae
GENUS: Rebutia

Rebutia: A South American genus named after French wine grower and cactus dealer, Monsieur Rebut, by Karl Schumann in 1895.

Some sources recognize a second supposedly closely related genus, Sulcorebutia, and Desert-Tropicals mentions a third and fourth genus, Mediobolivia, whose plants have tap roots – somewhat unusual for cactuses, and Weingartia – a frost tender group. Edward Anderson, author of The Cactus Family, recognizes only the genus Rebutia, so that is the genus name that I put on my plant labels.

These plants are generally small and low growing, ribs poorly developed or absent, spines weak and usually barely discernable as centrals and radials. Individual globes are usually four inches or less but many species can form large multi-globular clusters. Daytime flowers in spring, often numerous, funnellform and can cover the whole plant, mostly orange to yellow to red and violet. Distribution is the eastern Andes and the adjacent hills of Bolivia to northwestern Argentina.

These plants like a well-drained soil, not too much water in the winter to withstand frosty temperatures and decent amounts of water in the spring and summer as long as the soil is allowed to dry in between waterings. They can be reproduced by either seeds or offsets. They like sunlight, but even in Pismo Beach, where I grow these fellows outside along the west side of our house where they get morning shade, some of them exhibit sunburn during the spring and summer.

There are about sixty or so recognized species of Rebutia. Some of the nicer ones, and more available in cultivation, are *R. heliosa*, with wonderful spination and orange flowers; *R. steinmannii*, with a sort of light gray green skin and spines, black in the plant I have, that look like ants; and *R. spegazziniana*, which can (relatively) quickly grow large mounds.

The Digital Library – May 2013 Edition by Gene S.

In keeping with our Plant of the Month tie in, here are some study aids from the www.

** <http://www.sulcopassion.be/> Claude Bourleau maintains an extensive site for Sulcorebutia and Weingartia, now lumped by some into a more generous Rebutia description. Full of images, collection visits, resources and more. Save at least an hour or two for your first site visit.

** <http://www.rebutia.cz/> - Jan Vanecek's rebutia site. It's in Czech language but the pictures are all labeled with the standard binomials – i.e. Latinized English

SULCOMANIA is a DVD offering from Johan Pot – you can see a visit to his collection on the previous site. It has thousands of images, extensive descriptive text, maps, history and more. A must have if you are interested in this group.

Where can you find a good selection of Rebutia to purchase?

At our Show and Sale Vendor, Bill Munkacsy always has a huge selection of these and at this time of year, most are in flower. Look for his nursery label "Plantaseca"

<http://www.succseed.com/seeds-cacti/> - has about the largest selection of seed – over 450 rebutia selections. If you want to try your hand at growing from seed, most are easy. Images of almost all are shown on the site to help make your choice.

UPDATE – Cactus Explorers Club Journal #8 should be available for download by the time you see this. Download it here: <http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/journal6.htm> Previous editions are also there if you missed them.

Rebutia



R. steinmannii



R. heliosa



R. fiebrigii



R. canigeralii v. callecallensis



R. spegazziniana

The Board of Directors held a brief meeting following the general membership meeting on April 14, 2013.

The following subjects were discussed:

- Two positions on the board are open, Vice President and Publicity Chairman. A nominating committee comprised of Charles Varni, Gene Schroeder and Maggie Warner will present a slate of candidates to the membership at the May 2013 meeting.
- Suggestions were taken for the upcoming field trip. After consideration and discussion of the alternatives, the board agreed to sponsor a trip to Desert Images in Ojai (wholesale prices), lunch in Ojai and a visit to a nearby Australian nursery (10 percent discount). Jim Harlow is arranging the details.
- Markus Mumper will do a presentation on Sansevieria.
- The next meeting of the S&S Committee is scheduled for May 10 at Mary Peracca's home.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Moss, Secretary

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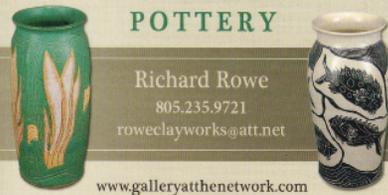
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Upcoming Events

May 17-18

Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 32nd Show and Sale. Fri & Sat 9-4:30. Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA. Info: 951-360-8802.

May 19

Epiphyllum Society of America Annual Show & Sale. Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Saturday 9-4.

May 25 & 26

Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa (at Mill St), San Luis Obispo, CA. Info: <http://centralcoastcactus.org>

June 1-2

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale. Sierra Vista Mall, 1060 W. Shaw Ave., Clovis, CA.

June 1-2

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale. Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. For information: 858-382-1797 <http://www.sdcss.net>

June 8-9

San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society Show & Sale. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park. Info: brianskemble@hotmail.com <http://sfsucculent.org>

June 15 to 20

CSSA 35th Biennial Convention. Austin, TX <http://CSSA2013.com>

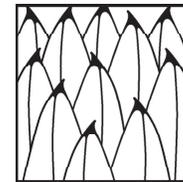
AIDS Memorial Garden

My name's Lucas. I'm a Cal Poly horticulture student that recently joined the Cactus & Succulent Society.

I have been contacted by an Americorps team that is designing a succulent garden to be installed this fall at the AIDS memorial garden in El Chorro Regional Park. They've asked me to help them start propagating cacti and succulents, and I figure I'd start by asking if anyone could spare some cuttings (and maybe even tips on how to get them to successfully root). It would be a great opportunity for the CCCSS to network with the community, meanwhile benefiting the AIDS Memorial Garden.

My contact information:

Lucas Carlow
[\(805\) 806-5753](tel:8058065753)
lucas.carlow@yahoo.com



Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
On the web at: <http://centralcoastcactus.org/>

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All submissions to the CCCSS newsletter **must be submitted two weeks prior** to the monthly meeting.

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A one time free newsletter will be mailed out to those who sign in at the monthly meetings. After this dues must be paid in order to start a subscription.