

On the Dry Side

May 2014

CCCSS April Meeting Recap

4/13/2014

President Charles Varni managed to get our full attention a few minutes after 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 13, 2014, and opened the general membership meeting in the main meeting room of the Odd Fellows Hall. He began by welcoming back your secretary, whose recovery was speeded by the warm wishes that were sent out to her. Our invaluable newsletter editor, Terry Excell, announced that she will need assistance with the newsletter for a few months, and former editor, Markus Mumper, awesomely volunteered to lend a hand to Terry. There were eight first-time visitors, but not one of them followed through with Charles' suggestion that they sing their favorite song! They did introduce themselves and each received a plant. The thoughtful people who bring our delicious refreshments were also given plants as a gesture of our appreciation.

Charles reminded us that there are hundreds of postcards available announcing our show and sale and suggested we take a handful and distribute some where we work, shop, work out, etc. Speaking of the show and sale, volunteers are still needed, and Pat Gilson is the woman to see. We tempt people to volunteer by giving them a discount on a post-S&S field trip. BUT, they are also allowed to pick out plants and pots in a special pre-sale on Friday between 7 and 8:30, before the show opens ... YES, before anyone else! Plants selected in the pre-sale will be boxed and placed in the Plant Hotel and paid for during cashiering hours on Saturday and Sunday. The pre-sale is also open to folks who are showing a plant in the S&S. Please remember that this benefit is not for your friends and family ... it is a benefit reserved for people who work and/or show at the Memorial Day event.

Plants being entered in the show must be received at the Ludwick Center on Friday, May 23, 2014, between 3 and 6:30 p.m. Plants will not be accepted at any other time. If anyone has a particular problem with this requirement, please discuss with Charles. Judging will begin at 7:00 p.m., and we remind you that no one other than judges and clerks is allowed in the show area while judging is taking place.

We encourage everyone to save and bring boxes to the show and sale. We can always use just a few more! Bring them any time after 1:00 p.m. on Friday and throughout the S&S. There will be an auction of show-quality plants on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. You may make an outright donation of a plant to the club, or you can arrange to have the club auction it for a 25 percent cut of the sale price. We are looking for plants that would go for \$40 or more. All plants must be approved by Charles Varni.

Wayne Mills announced a home garden tour is planned for June 14. Homes in South County are featured, and maps will be distributed upon receipt by Wayne of a \$5 fee. There will be a BBQ at Kathie Matsuyama's home following the tour. Each participant is asked to bring a dessert to share. A game is being planned that will end in a plant prize or prizes at the BBQ.

Other announcements included: □ all the sponsorships for the show have been sold ... thank you to the members who supported this to the tune of \$30 each; □ Jan Moon would like the remaining perpetual plaques returned; □ the S&S full-page flyer was attached to the last emailing with the newsletter; □ this year's S&S t-shirt will be heather gray. A design contest was held at the break and a design by Carol Moss was picked to adorn this year's shirts.

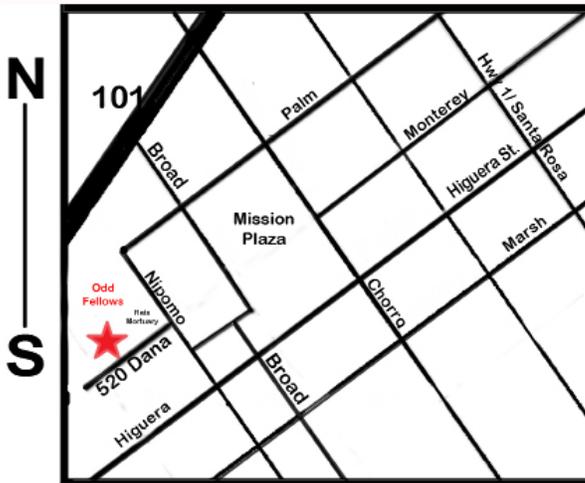
Kathie Matsuyama presented the Plant-of-the-Month: caudiciforms ... fat plants, if you will. Kathie also described the plants on the Brag Table, many of which were also fat plants. Kathie said that if you want to encourage growth in your caudiciform, put it in a new pot and raise it up. This will result in big growth, and you should keep doing it! Rob Skillin described the raffle plants and mentioned that there is a new plant category in this year's show for bonsai succulents.

Our featured speaker was Keith Taylor, who stopped by for his second visit in the last two or three years. Kathie Matsuyama who introduced Keith is our vice president, and it is one of her main duties to arrange for our featured speakers. Kathie says she wasn't here for Keith's first presentation, but she was fascinated by the description in *On the Dry Side* and wanted to see what this guy was all about. She wasn't disappointed! A show of hands indicated that many of us had seen Keith before, so we were prepared for some of his antics. Keith has a variety of interests, including a day job, being a potter and loving to cook. He lives in Fairfield, where it gets very cold in winter and swelters in summer. His approach to succulents is to do whatever works that is easiest. He doesn't use chemicals, doesn't like rooting hormone, and he doesn't fertilize. He admits to under-watering and letting his plants get sunburned. He reuses soil and doesn't sterilize it. He doesn't worry about bugs. He prefers shallow pots because he wants the plant to be the focus, not the pot. He has no qualms about shaping a plant's roots to conform to the pot he wants to use ... often a shallow one with little room for roots, which he freely whacks off. He loves to work with fat plants ... caudiciforms ... and doesn't hesitate to chop off parts of the plant, which he then allows to callus. Keith says a good rule of thumb for gauging the amount of time required to callus is one week per inch of diameter. When he acquires a new caudiciform, he checks to see how long it has been since it was repotted, and if the caudex hasn't hardened yet, he will often rebury it to encourage it to get bigger. Once the caudex hardens, it will not grow larger. As one of our successful growers pointed out, there are lots of ways to grow plants, and not everyone does it Keith's way, which is to take risks in order to get a "gnarly" plant. Keith brought along a euphorbia medusa, which he proceeded to uproot, trim and stage into a shallow pot by supporting it with wire covered by tubing for protection. He covered the holes in the pot with window screen, and reused the soil to place the euphorbia high in the pot with its caudex exposed. He planned to trim off the feeder roots once they dried, and he said the older heads on the euphorbia would fall off naturally once they dried out from starvation, leaving a more natural looking scar than you would get from manually removing them. The resulting staged plant was spectacular, although he admitted it probably wouldn't make it home intact.

After the break, the raffles were held and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:



Sunday
May 11 at 2:00
pm

**THE ODD
FELLOWS
HALL**

520 DANA ST.
(off Nipomo St)

CCCSS MEMBERSHIP

It is that time of year... time for renewal (due July 1, 2014). Avoid the rush and pay at the May meeting.

CCCSS RENEWAL

c/o Mary Peracca
4486 Sunflower Way
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

maryper777@gmail.com

550-6977

Membership: single-\$20
family-\$25 business-\$40

MAY SPEAKER!

Ernesto Sandoval

Director, UC Davis Botanical Conservatory
College of Bio Sci Greenhouses

“Plant Hormones & Why Our Plants Look and grow the Way They Do!”

Have you ever wondered why your plants have a sudden burst of growth after transplanting? Or how a plant “knows” to grow new parts when pruned or how a cutting knows to make roots? Or why you bury tomato plants or keep cuttings of cacti upright? Find answers to these questions and others about why your plants grow the way they do during this informative but not so technical presentation.



Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals and Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to Garden Clubs through the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout the State and elsewhere since that group of plants is his particular passion of his general passion for plants. He thoroughly enjoys helping others to understand why plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly “because that’s the way you do it.” Since then he’s gotten answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from waterer to

Director over the last 21 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He’s long left the “mow blow and go” monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the Conservatory, many of them succulents. He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do.

Ernesto will be bringing plants for you to purchase.



Plant of the Month: “Introduction to Staging Succulents”

by Kathie Matsuyama

This month I do not have a specific genus or species to discuss. Instead I've provide some introductory information on staging your succulents. To cover this topic, I have chosen two internet sources to review. The first is a YouTube video of a TV Show called Urban Dirt hosted by David Walrod. In this segment, David videotapes well-known succulent expert Larry Grammer at California Cactus Center in Pasadena as he stages a beautiful *Echeveria agavoides* var. *Ebony*. Here is the link to the YouTube video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzgXNIRPrwo>

The second internet source is an article by Geoff Stein called “Introduction to Staging Succulents and Cacti”. It is a basic step-by-step introduction to staging succulent plants, either for show, sale or personal enjoyment. As is true of many aspects of our hobby, you may not agree with all of what Geoff presents; this is Geoff's opinion. But I'm sure you will find it interesting and his photographs fascinating. Here is the link to Geoff Stein's article:

<http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/2547/>

Finally, you will see many truly excellent examples of expertly staged cactus and succulents at our Club's annual Show and Sale in May. Examine these plants closely, take photos, and talk to their owners. All are also great ways to learn! Have fun at the show and good luck with your own show entries!

Top dressing and pots will be available for purchase from club members.



CCCSS TIPS AND RULES FOR SHOWING PLANTS

Show Rules

- The CCCSS show is a competitive , judges event with three categories of exhibitors. Novice class refers to those who have not won more than ten blue ribbons in previous shows (with a special category for first time Rookie entries). Advanced class refers to those who have won more than ten blue ribbons in previous shows and the Open class for professional/commercial growers and any others who want to compete on this level.
- The Show is open to anyone with an interest in succulent plants.
- All entries will be grouped in their appropriate classification with a completed entry card by the exhibitor. Cards and assistance will be available prior to and at the Show.
- All entries must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least six months prior to the Show (with an exception for any plant purchased at the Holiday auction.
- Grafted plants will be accepted in any class and must be so indicated on the entry card.
- The Show chair may combine categories, rearrange plants, or move plants to different categories to improve the show.
- All plants must be free of pests, disease, insects, in presentable condition, and in clean containers. The Show chair will remove/reject any unsuitable plant.
- The CCCSS does not assume responsibility for loss or injury of property.

Suggestions for Showing

- Re-pot any plants weeks prior to the Show so they have a chance to re-establish their stability.
- Water plants no later than one week prior to the Show in order to avoid wet tables.
- Present your plant in its most beautiful appearance by having a clean plant and container with an appropriate top dressing.
- Each plant must have an entry card with its correct name (help available at Show).
- Arrange to have your plants at the Show at the designated time on Friday. Late plants will not be allowed to enter. Pick up your plants at the Show's conclusion on Sunday.
- Only one plant per pot other than those in the dish garden category

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!!

Our 8th Annual Show & Sale is right around the corner!

**We need member help on Sunday (5/25) from
10-noon, noon-2 and/or 2-4pm.**

**The shifts are 2 hours and there are multiple
areas where you can help.**

Contact Pat Gilson hupt74@yahoo.com 481-5596.



REMEMBER

Members that volunteer or participate in the show will be able to select plants in the pre-sale on Friday night 7 to 8:30 pm.

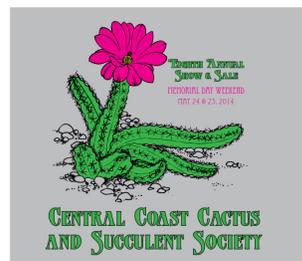


WANTED: A FEW GOOD PLANTS

A live auction of specimen plants will take place on Sunday May 25 at the Annual Show and Sale. If you would like to have a plant in the auction contact Charles Varni. Sellers can receive up to 75% of the final sales price; some folks donate all of the sale to the club. Your plant should have a minimum value of \$40. Space is limited.

SHOW SHIRT

The 2014 Show Shirts are now ready and will be available at the May meeting. Members get a discount at the meeting but must pay show price at the show & sale. If you pre ordered a long sleeve shirt, you can pick it up at the meeting.



Upcoming Events

May 17

Santa Barbara CSS Show and Sale, 10-3. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 909 N. La Cumbre Rd. Santa Barbara Ca. 93110. info- 895-0812.

May 17-18

Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10-5 www.lbcss.org Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach Info (310) 922-6090.

May 24-25

Our own 8th Annual CCCSS Show and Sale!!!!

June 7-8

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale. Sierra Vista Mall, Corner of Shaw & Clovis Ave. Clovis, CA.

June 14

Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Tour. See flyer/form in this newsletter.

June 14-15

San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society. 9am to 5pm Golden Gate Park, County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers), 9th and Lincoln, San Francisco, CA.

June 27-29

CSSA Annual Show & Sale. Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA. Show 28&29 only.

July 25-27

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale. Fri/Sat 9am to 5pm; Sun noon to 4pm. 1000 S. State College Bl., (United Methodist Church). Anaheim, CA. Info: 949-212-8417.

August 9-10

29th Annual Intercity Show & Sale. Los Angeles County Arboretum, 9am to 5pm. 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Info: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John Matthews 661-297-5364.

NEW SHOW CLASSIFICATION: DIVISION II, NUMBER 61 BONSAI SUCCULENTS

2014 CCCSS Bonsai Succulent Judging Guidelines



- Bonsai succulent should convey the impression of a tree growing naturally.
- The tree should appear to have maturity. The more aged, the better. Elements to look for:
 - A. girth of trunk,
 - B. thickness of lower branches,
 - C. the skin of the tree should resemble bark (green color trunks should be avoided as they give the appearance of new wood not old.)
 - D. The roots of old trees lift up out of the earth. A bonsai should do so as well. Visible surface roots are very positive.
 - E. The soil should taper away from the trunk.
- Trunk. Trunk taper larger at bottom than top. Thicker is better. A heavier trunk creates the impression of age and size.
- Branching. Look for twigging of branching, and short internodes. Thickest and longest branches should be at the bottom. Avoid crossing branches as they tend to be confusing to the eye and appear more bush like.
- Leaves should be in scale with the trunk, and with size and shape in character with branches and tree size.
- Design should bring open space and light into the interior of the tree. A key component of bonsai design is the ability to see into the structure of the tree.
- Pots should be in scale with the tree and must not give the appearance of instability, especially in slant or cascade styles. Smaller pots accentuate the appearance of size in the tree.
- Surface should resemble the earth. Use of a natural top dressing (as compared to glass beads or manmade materials) is preferred. Any rocks used must be integral to the design of the staging (less is better).
- Planting should be off center in the pot with the trunk and branching in context with the planting location- i.e. plant with shorter branches on near side, slant moving to the far side, etc. Do not give the appearance of the pot being unstable. The tree should not be planted in the front 1/3rd of the pot.

There are various classic bonsai styles and each style has some characteristics that are additional or different for judging criteria. In judging bonsai succulents the following variations are used to inform, rather than define the judging of any plant, since all plants are in the same general category and judging distinction is not made between styles.

- Broom style uses extensive fine branching, and straight upright trunks. Branching begins about a third of the way up and the outline is ball shape or upside down martini glass. There still needs to be an openness to the interior. This style often does not have a defined apex.
- Literati style defies classic “rules” and uses tall plants with bare trunk line, few branches (near the apex) and contorted trunks. Often found in very small pots.
- Forest plantings. Use of odd numbers typically 3, 5, 7s or so many trees you can’t easily count them. Arrangement to create depth (smaller trees to the rear), openness and interest in the interior. The pot should have low sides and the surface should resemble an undulating forest floor or a flat rock. Trees of various heights and thickness are used. Branches extend to the exterior. Mixed species is to be avoided.
- Cascade style. These trees appear to drape over a cliff or down the side of a mountain. Nevertheless, it still must have an apex. This style uses a tall, slender pot not used in other styles. The apex may start below the pot surface but should extend upward.
- Formal Upright style. This tree uses a straight upright trunk and emphasizes taper and strength. Its silhouette is triangular in shape. Asymmetry and elegance define this style. Roots radiate around the trunk. This style rarely uses deadwood or jin. A defined apex is critical. This tree stands alone and does not use a rock in the pot as an accent feature.
- Informal Upright style. This style is given more latitude than Formal Upright. The trees often appear windswept or slant. The trunk often has curves. Branches are often parallel to the ground not necessarily at 90-degree angles from the trunk. This style often uses deadwood or jin. This is the most common style as it has so much more latitude in “requirements,” nevertheless this style must have a defined apex.
- Root over Rock. This is a method of planting not a style in itself. Any style can be used this planting method (other than Formal Upright). Typically the tree grows over the rock, with roots draped down and through the rock into the soil.
- Landscape. This Chinese style (Penjing) would be easy with succulent plants, but difficult with succulent “trees”. The style creates a mountain appearance with multiple trees growing from crags and cliffs. Often it is placed in a shallow dish that may create the appearance of water below, or a mountain meadow. Accent plants are often used to further the appearance of the mountain.

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY TOUR

SATURDAY JUNE 14, 2014 10am to 5pm

Visit 6 unique gardens between 10 am and 4 pm. Enjoy BBQ dinner provided by the Club at The Matsuyama's starting at 5pm. Please bring a pot luck dessert to share and your favorite beverage.

We are planning a fun plant ID game at each tour stop.

Plant prizes to be awarded at the Matsuyama's.

The tour cost, including the BBQ, is \$5.00 per person for CCCSS members and guests. Please send or deliver your registration fee to **Wayne Mills** between May 1st and June 1st to receive the tour brochure.

wwmills50@hotmail.com 481-3495

Tour hours will be 10 am to 5 pm. Meet at the Matsuyama's at 5:00 p.m. for conversation, cocktails (BYO) and BBQ.

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY TOUR

(print & complete this form if you plan to attend)



Name of attendee(s) _____

Address: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Send or deliver payment between May 1, 2014 and June 1, 2014 to:

**Wayne Mills,
502 Via La Barranta
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420**

Thank you!! Enjoy the tour!

Board of Directors Meeting

After the general membership meeting on April 13, 2014, the following members assembled for the Board of Directors meeting: Charles Varni (president), Kathie Matsuyama (vice president), Maggie Wagner (treasurer), Carol Moss (secretary), Terry Excell (newsletter editor), Pat Gilson (hospitality), Wayne Mills (publicity), Loring Manley (member at large), Rob Skillin (CCSSA representative), Gene Schroeder (librarian), Harry Harlow (member at large), Mary Harlow, Markus Mumper, Nick Wilkinson, Mary Peracca, Christy Keeling, Ken Byrne, Ann Byrne, and Terry Skillin.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved an expenditure of \$300 for expenses related to judging at the annual show and sale. It was agreed that the club will arrange to have two judges in the three categories (novice, advanced and open). Judging will start at 7:00 on the Friday evening before the show and sale. The club will provide a meal for the judges and volunteers working on Friday.

Markus Mumper, former newsletter editor, graciously agreed to assume responsibility for editing the newsletter while Terry Excell is recovering from wrist surgery. (Please note that Maggie fully recovered once she realized that this will be a temporary undertaking on the part of husband Markus). The board agreed that the newsletter will no longer be mailed. Members who do not have email and who previously received the newsletter by mail will have a copy available for them at the monthly general meeting.

The group debated the advisability of obtaining separate insurance for the upcoming garden tour. Further study is required before a final decision can be made. The garden tour in June will be followed by a BBQ dinner at Kathie Matsuyama's home. Attendees are requested to provide a dessert; the meal will be subsidized by a \$5 fee for tour participants. Wayne Mills is the point person for this project and will provide tour participants with a map of the homes on the tour upon receipt of the \$5 fee.

The group then engaged in a free-ranging discussion of issues concerning the growth and goals of CCCSS as specifically related to the running of the annual show and sale. The discussion began with a brief statement by each participant in which each presented his or her opinion of the direction they would like the show and sale (and CCCSS in general) to take in the future. Previous emailed comments by some members had clearly prompted the members present to seriously consider the matter, and comments were well thought out and openly presented. The focus of most speakers was that we must first establish our goals and work from there to determine what is necessary to achieve those goals. Concerns included how we select and accommodate our vendors, how much we charge them for their tables, and what we will require of them to remain in the sale. Also discussed were the social and educational activities and functions offered to CCCSS members and how the club will finance those anticipated activities. One recurring theme of the speakers was that we are already financially viable and that our show and sale is one of the top events in California, ranking right up at the top with the much larger shows in the state. It was suggested that we not try to fix what is obviously working so well.

Rob Skillin and Nick Wilkinson explained how they originally chose the vendors and policies surrounding the sale, and they agreed to codify their policies and present them to the Board for further discussion and amendment, with the goal of including the policies in the Standing Rules section of the CCCSS bylaws. It was decided that the Board as a whole will address these issues rather than selecting a small group to deal with it.

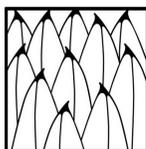
It was also generally agreed to spend some time re-visiting and possibly revising club goals as well as doing a more systematic survey of what types of club-sponsored activities members would specifically engage in.

The meeting adjourned around 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

ADDENDUM: A quorum of the board of directors was present at the show and sale committee meeting held on April 25 at the home of Mary Peracca. Board members present were Charles Varni, Carol Moss, Maggie Wagner, Pat Gilson, Wayne Mills, Gene Schroeder, Terry Excell and Harry Harlow (along with other committee members). The board approved the slate of judges for the show: Novice – Jan Moon and Markus Mumper; Advanced – Fred Gaumar and Nick Wilkinson; Open – Naomi Bliss and Bill Muncacsy; Bonsai – Ann Erb and Kris Gorsuch. The board also discussed whether or not club members can sell items at the general meeting that are not competition for items sold by featured speakers who bring items to sell. It was agreed that members will be allowed to sell such items but must receive authorization in advance from the vice president. Board members reiterated their intent to no longer mail hard copies of On the Dry Side and agreed that the only people who may pick up a printed copy at meetings are the people without email access who have been receiving mailed copies.

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



EDITOR: Terry Excell: txraid@gmail.com
1680 13th St. Los Osos, CA, 93402

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is the last issue of *On the Dry Side* that will be mailed to those of you without access to e-mail. Members without e-mail who previously received a hard copy by USPS mail may pick up their copy at the front desk at monthly meetings.

CHECK OUT THIS PLANT!

It is a 35 year old euphorbia that needs a new home.



Contact Mike at 805 481-3651 or imalexandrow@charter.net
All offers will be considered.

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR BOXES FOR THE PLANT SALE!

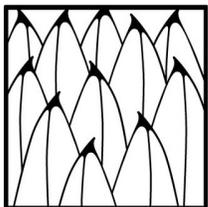
PLANTERA PRIMAL
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CHARLES VARNI
OCEANO, CALIFORNIA
805.459.6698
WWW.VARNI.ORG
CHARLES@VARNI.ORG



POLICY FOR ADS

This is your club! We would like you to have the ability to share your club related items so your Board of Directors implemented a new policy.

"6.1 Individual club members may be allowed to place an announcement in the eNewsletter for plant related/club related items that might be of interest to the members. There will be no charge for the announcement and it should be limited to 30 words, and can include an optional small picture, and contact information; it can run for one month with an extension upon a re-submission of the ad material. The proposed ad must be emailed to the Newsletter Editor 2 weeks prior to the next CCCSS Monthly Membership Meeting meeting. It might not appear in the print version due to space limitations."



Central Coast
Cactus and
Succulent
Society

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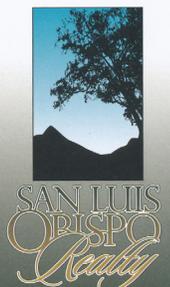
We Have Four Locations To Serve You

224 Tank Farm Road San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805.543.3751 • FAX 805.543.0613	1108 Paso Robles Street Paso Robles, CA 93446 805.238.1177 • FAX 805.238.3527
1079 El Camino Real Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 805.489.5514 • FAX 805.473.7263	1920 N. Broadway Santa Maria, CA 93454 805.922.2737 • FAX 805.922.6982

DESERT CREATIONS

North Hills, CA
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Home of unusual succulents and cactus

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