

On the Dry Side

APRIL 2015

CCCSS March Meeting Recap

March 8, 2015

RETURN LAST
YEAR'S REVOLVING
REWARD PLAQUES
TO JAN MOON
4moons@charter.net

Another beautiful day, another full house, and a meeting that started on time ... you can't ask for much more! President **Ken Byrne** welcomed a large group of students from Cal Poly Professor David Keil's Botany class and each received a succulent (and probably some extra credit from Dr. Keil), along with the members who provided snacks. Luckily **Rob Skillin** brought two flats of plants for distribution. It was nice to have a student group visit us and we would love to see them again.

Announcements: Our immediate past-president **Charles Varni**, modeling **Mary Harlow's** succulent headpiece (see the CCCSS Facebook page if you missed it), mentioned the club campout in the Mojave National Preserve at the end of March. **Susan "Braids" Waidner** announced that the t-shirt design contest was in full swing in the snack room. This year we had more entries than last year and thank everyone who made the effort to create a design we can be proud of. **Ken and Ann Byrne's** design was selected and they will have the pleasure of seeing their design on our 2015 S&S shirts. Congratulations to the Byrnes and their son, who lent his expertise to the design. **Maggie Wagner** mentioned that our long-time member **Yvonne Edmisten** recently passed away and there was a sympathy card to be signed at the back table. Vice-President **Kathie Matsuyama** announced the sale of collectible *Haworthias* to be held at Terra Sol in Santa Barbara later in March. **Rob Skillin** reminded the meeting of his Open Greenhouse/Party to be held on March 28. Rob serves as our CSSA Representative and announced the CSSA Convention to be held at Pitzer College beginning June 14. If you are interested in attending this event, please check the website at www.cssa2015.com. **Jan Moon**, who works with **Nick Wilkinson** at Grow Nursery, announced that the dates of their Spring Spectacle are April 11 and 12. Kathie also mentioned that the Greenhouse Growers Association will hold its annual open greenhouse tour on April 18. Check it out at <http://ccgga.com/events/open-house>. Kathie and Gene Schroeder are participating in the program. **If you have trouble keeping track of all these events, be sure to check the Events section of this newsletter and/or the whiteboard at the Greeter's Table where these events and more are listed.**

Kathie presented the Brag Table plants and the Plant-of-the-Month, with help from the people who made the effort to bring in plants for these portions of the program. Be sure to refer to the article on *Eriogyne* in last month's *On the Dry Side*. **Gene Schroeder** highly recommends Florencia Senoret and Juan Acosta's book *Cactaceas Nativas de Chile* (in Spanish)

http://www.corma.cl/file/material/cactaceas_chilenas_2013.pdf and Spiniflores Flicker stream <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cactushorridus/sets/>. Gene brought in an *Eriogyne* that he dumped out and split apart for sharing. Rob described the plants to be given away in the drawings.

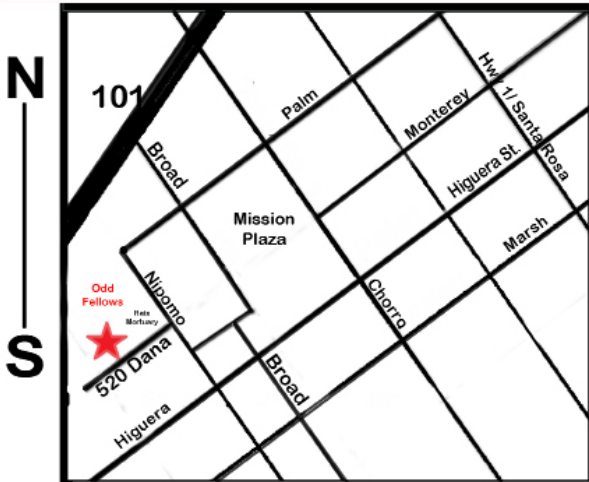


We then had the pleasure of hearing from world-class expert and CCCSS founding member Woody Minnich who displayed and discussed photographs of the trip he took to Madagascar with a number of other enthusiasts, including our own Rob Skillin (who previously presented a program on the trip to Madagascar). Although Woody now lives in New Mexico, he is a presence in the California succulent society and is a close friend of many of our members. Woody is always generous in his praise, and specifically mentioned our awesome volunteers and our phenomenal growth. Woody then described the island of Madagascar, with emphasis on the succulents, along with beautiful photos of the native population and animals. [The lemurs were too cute.] One of the many interesting things Woody conveyed was the fact that there is so much erosion of the red soil from the ritual burnings on the island that the water around it is colored red when seen from space. He showed pictures of many succulents that are unnaturally red because of the extreme stress, and mentioned that vast swaths of succulents have been destroyed by the yearly burnings. The French occupied Madagascar but evacuated in the 1950s and 1960s, and there has been little, if any, progress since then. The infrastructure has deteriorated and the population is very poor and subsists on rice, its staple food. The residents use the same water source for all their needs, from drinking water, to bathing, washing clothes, and sanitation. Finding lodging is difficult and primitive by our standards, and their personal residences are often ramshackle. The primary building material is adobe bricks, although Woody's photos showed many that were made of twigs and bundles of grass. Even so, Woody is of the opinion that the inhabitants seem happy and content.

Following the break, which featured voting on the t-shirt designs and plant sales, along with the usual wonderful selection of snacks [thank you!], the drawings were conducted and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:



**Sunday
April 12**
**THE ODD
FELLOWS
HALL**

**520 DANA ST.
(off Nipomo St.)**

CCCSS MEMBERSHIP

If you cannot make it to the meeting,
send your info to:

CCCSS Membership

c/o Barbara Brooks
441 Marsh St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

barbarahbrooks@sbcglobal.net

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

PARKING AN ISSUE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO CARPOOL?

We will have a signup box at the meeting on April 12. We will ask you to share your name, email, and area where you live with other members from your area. After you sign up, Terry (newsletter editor) will put together an email that has other interested members from your area and you will receive the information before the May meeting so you can make contact with folks from the list and arrange to carpool. Contact: Terry Excell txlraiders@gmail.com



SPEAKER of the MONTH for APRIL STEVE FRIEZE



Steve will be providing a hands-on demonstration regarding preparing your plants for the upcoming show on May 23-24, 2015. His presentation will incorporate tips and great ideas for appropriately preparing your pots, staging your plants and using top dressing. Don't miss this very important presentation!

Steven Frieze has worked for the California State University system for just about thirty years. He was an administrator for 22 years where he served as a manager of the office that looked at quality control issues at the university. For the past several years he has worked as an adjunct faculty member at California State University, Dominguez Hills teaching upper division psychology courses.

Steve Frieze has been involved with cacti and succulents for over thirty years. He is a lifetime member of the Los Angeles Cacti and Succulent Society where he served as the President of that Club for a number of years and as its newsletter editor for several more years. Recently he has been co-managing partner of Desert Creations, an exotic cactus and succulent plant store. Steven has made several plant related expeditions to Namibia, Chile, East Africa, Oaxaca Mexico, Cost Rica, and Brazil.

Steve is working on a web page for future sales. Save this link: <http://www.desertcreations.net/> in your "Succulent Favorites"

Steve will have plants available for purchase.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Other Crassulas: Graptopetalum, Greenovia, Jovibarba, Orostachys, Pachyphytum, and Rosularia

By Kathie Matsuyama

The Crassulaceae is a large family of 1500 species in which most genera exhibit a degree of leaf succulence. Some succulent Crassulaceae are frost-hardy and suitable for use as garden plants. A common feature of the Crassulaceae is the biochemical adaptation to arid conditions: Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM). Because organic acids are used for temporary sequestration of carbon dioxide, CAM plants often taste bitter.

GRAPTOPETALUM

Graptopetalum are native to Mexico and southern USA. There are between 16 and 19 species in this genus. Their leaves vary in color from silver-grey to pink to waxy green, and are often speckled. They all have thick leaves forming rosettes. Graptopetalums can be confused with Echeverias, but their flowers are very different. Graptopetalums have star-shaped flowers with their white to pink petals radiating out. Echeverias have bell like flowers with their petals only partly open. Graptopetalums are summer growers. All require lots of sun to look their best. They require gritty porous soil with excellent drainage. Water regularly over the summer months letting the soil dry out between waterings. Minimal water is required over winter. Fertilize once during the growing season with a balanced fertilizer diluted to ¼ strength. All do best in sun or part sun excluding Graptopetalum bellum which prefers light shade. Graptopetalums can be propagated by stem cuttings or division. Leaves will root and form plantlets also, if they are kept in a shaded place. Graptopetalums have been used to produce hybrids by cross-pollinating with echeverias, creating the hybrid genus Graptoveria.



Graptopetalum paraguayense



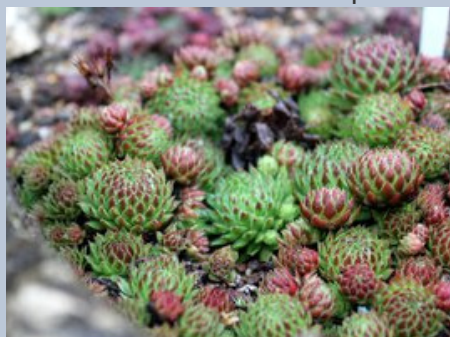
Greenovia diplocycla var. gigantea

GREENOVIA

The genus Greenovia contains monocarpic rosette-forming species mainly native to the Canary Islands. All species have rosebud shaped rosettes and bright yellow flowers. Greenovia have been recently reclassified into the genus Aeonium. Greenovia are winter growers requiring little water through the warmer months. In summer the rosettes close tightly and the outer leaves dry out.

JOVIBARBA

The genus Jovibarba is native to Europe, Jovibarba ("beard of Jove") is a small genus of 3-5 alpine species closely related to Sempervivum. The plants seem distinct from Sempervivum, however botanically it remains an uncertainty. Jovibarba are best grown in full sun with very fast-draining soil. In locations where there is intense sun and dryness, some light shade is advised. They are prone to rot where winters are very wet and should be moved to a sheltered position. Jovibarba are frost resistant. The most



Jovibarba globifera



obvious distinction of Jovibarba is the way the rosettes will divide themselves by producing offsets in a sessile fashion (new offsets between older leaves) without a stolon. Sempervivum will do this too, however, it is most commonly observed later in the growing season. There is also a difference in the flower. Jovibarba having yellow flowers with a 'closed' corolla, and Sempervivum having a star-like shape and vary from yellow, white, or pink. Jovibarba is also monocarpic like Sempervivum, meaning the rosette will die after flowering. However, with Jovibarba the old rosette just seems to disappear amongst the profusion of other rosettes. Jovibarba may be propagated either by seed or by divisions. Divisions are the preferred method if you wish to maintain the characteristics of the clone. Seeds will work, but you will most likely get something that is not true to type.

Plant of the Month Continued:

OROSTACHYS

Orostachys is a genus of 13 small rosette succulents from Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China, Korea and Japan. Some of the species may be included under Sedum and Cotyledon. Some species have more succulent leaves than others. Each leaf carries a terminal spine. Plants are monocarpic (die after flowering). The center of the rosette bulges upward and rises, turning into a wide-based raceme of insignificant small yellowish flowers. The flower spike is described as having the shape of an inverted ice-cream cone. However, new rosettes form in a circle at the base of the mature plant, which are normally removed and grown individually. Keep these plants dry during winter dormancy and otherwise watered sparingly, avoiding getting water on the rosette. Bright light or diffuse sunlight helps to keep the rosette compact. As with other Crassulaceae, Orostachys spinosa employs Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM). In recent studies, it was determined "to be amongst the most cold-adapted plants known." The relatively high sugar content of the leaves, compared with starch, may help it to survive extreme freezing temperatures to -40°C and even carry out photosynthesis under snow cover in its habitat.



Orostachys iwarenge

PACHYPHYTUM

Pachyphytum is a genus of 10-15 small succulents with very fleshy, softly colored rounded leaves. Short fat leaves and stems are common to the whole genus. The name comes from the ancient Greek pachys (=thick) and phyton (=plant) because of the shape of the leaves. These plants are found growing in rocky mountains of Eastern central Mexico. Pachyphytum is closely related to Echeveria. Pachyphytums are summer growers. These hardy plants require a free-draining soil mix and regular summer water. They only require minimal water in winter. They love full sun and are drought tolerant. The white pruinose stem coatings of the plants are sensitive to handling as skin oil can damage the leaves. Pachyphytums are frost hardy to -7°C. New plants are readily propagated from leaf or stem cuttings. In fact, the leaves will fall off with just a slight touch. To propagate this plant, rest the leaves on damp potting mix in a shady location; roots and tiny plantlets will form.



Pachyphytum oviferum

ROSULARIA

The Rosularia genus consists of 25-35 species native to Morocco and the Himalayan region of China where they grow in rock crevices. This genus is an important larval host for the Central Asian butterfly Parnassius apollonius. The small, clumping, succulent rosettes produce pastel colored flowers in pink, yellow and cream. Rosularia resemble their close cousins the Sempervivum except that they have bell-shaped blooms instead of star-shaped. They require perfectly draining soil and high light levels.



Rosularia platyphylla

2015 Contest Design Winner! Congrats to: Ken & Anne Byrne!

LAST CHANCE to order/pay for "Special Order Shirts": (Long Sleeve & Women's)

Style choices & colors available below:



\$10 Men's Tee-color: Ash



\$25 Long Sleeve-color: Ash



\$15 Women's Cut-color: silver

To Order- contact Braids at Sunday's meeting braids97@sbcglobal.net

Board of Directors

March 8, 2015

Following the meeting of the general membership, the following individuals assembled at 5:15 pm for a meeting of the Board of Directors: Barbara Brooks, Ann Byrne, Ken Byrne, Pat Gilson, Harry Harlow, Mary Harlow, Terry Leivers, Loring Manley, Kathie Matsuyama, Wayne Mills, Carol Moss, Markus Mumper, Mary Peracca, Gene Schroeder, Rob Skillin, Terry Skillin, Maggie Wagner, and Charles Varni.

Maggie Wagner presented the Treasurer's report, and Barbara Brooks reported on Membership. Markus Mumper has purchased audio/video equipment as authorized in the previous meeting. Kathie will store and transport the equipment. Susan Waidner will contact the members who signed up for a women's cut or long-sleeved shirt and did not pay for their special order. The Board chose a neutral color (sand/ash) for the 2015 shirt with the design by the Byrnes which was chosen by the membership.

There was a discussion about how to notify members who do not receive the newsletter electronically about changes such as a modified start time. Barbara volunteered to contact those people by telephone in the event of a material change. Charles reported that he has begun compiling the survey results and will have complete results at the next meeting. Eighty-nine surveys were completed, with written comments on at least 30. The majority of comments said that the meetings were too long, particularly the segments dealing with Brag Table plants and Plant-of-the-Month. The Board discussed various ways to modify the program. Next month we will try a short in-place break (stand and stretch) before the feature speaker's presentation and may display the Brag and POM plants differently.

There was a report from the Show and Sale committee. Charles commended the committee members, who are all experienced veterans of previous S&S committees. Several specific issues were discussed, including the number of tables that will be available for vendors. Pat said she already has enough volunteers, except for Sunday. The Board discussed the Friday evening meal for vendors and volunteers working on Friday. Woody Minnich will be a vendor this year and he has agreed to be a show judge. The Board also discussed clerks to assist the judges and Charles will invite members to apply to be a clerk at the next general meeting. Clerks need to have some knowledge of succulents, be organized, and have the ability to move possibly heavy plants.

Loring brought in an example of the stanchions he donated to the club. Thank you, Loring ... these are going to be great at the S&S. The need for a permanent storage facility for stanchions, tables, signage, etc. was discussed and Pat will research finding an appropriate place. A decision on the reward trip was tabled.

The Election Committee, which consists of Charles, Mary P. and Gene, will present a slate of candidates at the next meeting. All current elected Board members have indicated a desire to continue in their current positions, with the exception of Harry Harlow (Member at Large) who will continue to participate when he and Mary are not traveling. As usual, the slate will be presented to the general membership and nominations from the floor will be taken. Appointed positions will be considered at a later meeting.

Other issues were discussed, including tax and raffle considerations: at the moment we are waiting to hear from our accountant. A/V equipment: completed. Standing Rules: still in progress. Job descriptions: each person was asked to submit a concise description of their duties to Carol in time for her to organize them for the April meeting. Workshops/programs at member's homes: wait for survey results. Adding voting members/2nd Vice-President: will be considered by the Elections Committee. Monetary checks and balances: Maggie suggested that we use a Receipt Book when dealing with money; Barbara will keep a cash receipt book for membership monies. Community outreach: Kathie and Gene are participating in the Greenhouse Growers Association event on April 18. Nipomo High School has requested help with a garden project; Ken and Gene will inquire about details (who will maintain, will our name be listed, etc.). A member requested the donation of centerpieces for an organization in Santa Barbara; Kathie will suggest the member approach the Santa Barbara club.

We were fooled by Daylight Saving Time and thought we were getting finished early, but it was actually 6:45 when we finally adjourned.

Remember to thank all the hard-working volunteers who devote their time and energy to make this the fabulous organization that it is.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

Additional BOD activity: On Sunday, March 22, 2015, the following members assembled at the home of Charles Varni: Pat Gilson, Harry Harlow, Mary Harlow, Carol Moss and Terry Skillin. Along with Charles, who had spent time previously organizing the surveys, they tabulated the survey results and Carol will compile them for distribution.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11 & 12 LOCAL EVENT

Grow Nursery "Spring Spectacle" (see announcement next page)

April 18 LOCAL EVENT

Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association to host 14th Annual Open House www.ccgga.com (see announcement next page)

April 18 & 19

Monterey Bay C&SS Show & Sale San Juan Bautista Community Hall, 10 San Jose St., San Juan Bautista

April 26 LOCAL EVENT

29th Annual AAUW Garden Tour. Noon-5pm. (see announcement next page)

May 2 & 3

Sunset SS S&S, Culver City (310-822-1783) <http://www.sunsetsucculentsociety.org/>.

May 16

Santa Barbara Annual S&S 10am to 3pm http://sbcactus.org/SBCSS/SBCSS_Show_%26_Sale.html

May 15 & 16

Long Beach Cactus Club S&S (www.lbscc.org)

May (22), 23 & 24

CCSS Show and Sale

June 14-19

CSSA Biennial Convention, Pitzer College, Claremont www.cssainc.org



Prepare to Enjoy!

the 2015 CSSA Biennial Convention
in a setting filled with Succulent Plants

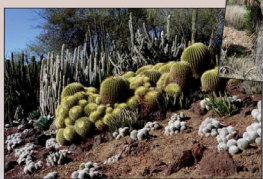


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Claremont, California
June 14 – 19, 2015

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Hosts
San Gabriel Valley C&S Society and Gates C&S Society

Presenters
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Thomas Cole
Doug Dawson
Julia Etter & Martin Kristen
Kelly Griffin
Steven Hammer
Dr. Heidi Hartmann
Tim Harvey
Ernst Van Jaarsveld
Gary James
Zlatko Janeba
Panayoti Kelaidis
Brian Kemble
Stephen McCabe
Len Newton
Andry Peignat
Jon P. Rebman
Jeremy Spath
Joe Stead
Sula Vanderplank

The Spring Spectacular @ GROW Nursery

Come Celebrate Waterwise Plants for the California Garden

Saturday April 11th 10-6 & Sunday April 12th 10-5



Grow Nursery in Cambria Ca., is planning a special event the weekend of April 11-12. It is a celebration of Spring and will feature tons of unusual waterwise plants, including the magnificent blooming cacti of Plantaseca, who plan to have over 60 different species of cacti and it will be at the peak of their blooming season! The colors and the spectacle are something to behold. We will also be featuring the handmade pottery of several local potters as well as having tons of local growers there on staff to answer all of your plant questions.

PLANTS + FOOD + MUSIC + (maybe even some WINE or BEER) = FUN!

More info to come as we develop our plan of attack and work on bringing more fun stuff to the weekend.

Contact Nick Wilkinson for more information nick@grownursery.com or call GROW at (805) 924-1340



events

“ZOOM” these flyers!

ARROYO GRANDE TOUR:

Open House & Scholarship Fundraiser
April 18, 2015 9am-3pm
Plant Sales~Nursery Tours~Demonstrations~Raffle!
Proceeds benefit the CCGGA Scholarship Fund.

NIPOMO TOUR:

Rabobank

The Morro Bay Branch of American Association of University Women invites you to attend their

29th Annual AAUW Garden Tour

“Hidden Treasures”



Discover five charming gardens in Los Osos, Morro Bay & Cayucos

Sunday, April 26, 2015
Noon to 5 pm

\$10 per person (no pets)

Proceeds benefit community educational projects

Tickets available starting April 1st at:



or from any AAUW Morro Bay Branch Member

For more information: morrobayauw.org or (805) 748-4731

Club Officers

PRESIDENT

Ken Byrne
agaveken@msn.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Kathie Matsuyama
luvbigdogs@earthlink.net

SECRETARY

Carol Moss

TREASURER

Maggie Wagner

HOSPITALITY

Pat Gilson
hupt74@yahoo.com

AT-LARGE

Loring Manley

AT-LARGE

Harry Harlow

LIBRARIAN

Gene Schroeder
Leschroeder@earthlink.net

PUBLICITY

Wayne Mills
wwmills50@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Barbara Brooks
barbarahbrooks@sbcglobal.net

CSSA AFFILIATE

Rob Skillin

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Terry Excell
fxlraiders@gmail.com

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



Library Books MIA????

The library's list of outstanding/overdue books has grown quite large

Please, everyone, have a look about and return any books so that they may become available for others.

Please contact **Gene Schroeder**

Leschroeder@earthlink.net

CHECK OUT THIS WONDERFUL VIDEO BY EchinopsisFreak on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=_hwDdE0Gu4E

Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteer to work a shift at the Show and Sale on Memorial Day weekend. Contact Pat Gilson at hupt74@yahoo.com
- Consider submitting your name for one of the two openings on the club's Board of Directors—member at large or vice-president in charge of plant of month and brag table. See Charles Varni for job description at charles@varni.org
- The club Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Hospitality Chair are looking for an assistant/trainee to help and eventually assume the position.
- Come before or stay after monthly club meetings to help set-up or take down tables and chairs.

15% FOR CCCSS MEMBERS



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