

On the Dry Side

AUGUST 2013

CCCSS July Meeting Recap

7/14/2013

It seems that everyone who comes to our meeting from North County arrived late because of a fire at the base of The Grade that caused a major traffic tie-up. I was one of those unfortunate people – I arrived fairly late and my notes are not as detailed as usual. Someone said that we had about a dozen first-time visitors and a total of around 110 to 115 folks in attendance. President Charles Varni looked OK, so I guess he handed out free succulents to the visitors and members who brought the snacks and nobody was ticked off. By the time I arrived, Rob was well into his part of the program, and was discussing dormancy ... how to tell, what to do. (Please refer to last month's edition of *On the Dry Side*). Some plants go dormant when the weather gets too hot for them, then regrow their vines when the weather returns to normal. A systemic such as Bayer was recommended for mealy bugs. Rob also described the raffle plants and how the various raffles are conducted.

Today's speaker, Woody Minnich, together with Charles and Joann Spotts, announced that **October 12, 2013** – the second Saturday in October – has been chosen for the second auction of the Spotts' plants. Most plants are in pottery and will be "more affordable," intermediate, show-quality plants.

Jim Harlow announced that there was still room on the bus for the trip to three nurseries in the Ojai/ Santa Barbara area. [This is being written after that trip occurred, and I can report that it was successful and fun, as usual. There were special prices at all three places and an amazing selection. Eight lucky people won nice raffle plants on the bus (thanks, Wayne), and everyone enjoyed coffee, snacks and "refreshments" (thanks, Mary and Harry, with help from Kristie). In my opinion, Randy Ball deserves recognition for the most impressive purchase, at least in the hardest-to-transport category, for his extremely tall Pachypodium. Harry Harlow bought a tree, but it was a lot more supple and, therefore, easier to transport, than the Pachypodium!]

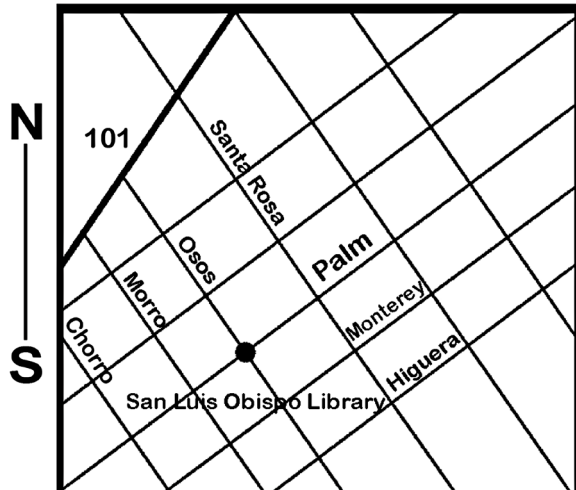
Our awesome newsletter editor, Terry Excell, announced that there are still problems with some servers treating the newsletter as spam, so please add her to your address list. We were also told that after many years of service to CCCSS, Ken and Ann Byrne are hanging up their aprons and turning over the coffee filters to Claudette Rettig. Thank you, Ann and Ken, for coordinating our refreshments and for everything else that you do, and thanks also to Claudette for taking over.

Mary Peracca introduced Woody Minnich, today's speaker, who began his presentation by commenting on the growth our club is experiencing. (The July meeting was again standing-room-only.) Woody suggested that our group is becoming a major player in the California succulent community and said he would like to see more of us participating in the larger umbrella groups and other societys' events. Woody then began his slide program by recognizing the contributions made by succulent lovers he calls *the field workers* – the enthusiasts who go out and find and document plants in habitat. He mentioned our own Rob Skillin (who traveled to Madagascar with Woody after the meeting), and others, such as the Spotts, who have done so much to further interest in succulents/ cactus. We were then treated to wonderful photographs representing Woody's lifetime of exploration. Thank you, Woody! (Based on comments made on the Ojai trip, many members were entranced by a photo of an agave with markings reminiscent of an art-deco design. It is an agave *ferdinandi* regis. The owner at Terra Sol had one in the back, but it was young and not as impressive as we were hoping for. The web page for San Marcos Growers says they no longer grow this plant, so it is probably difficult to find.)

Following the break and the three raffles, the lengthy meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:



**Sun. August 11
at 2:00 pm**

**San Luis Obispo
Public Library**

**995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo**

Membership Renewal Time

**Our NEW YEAR started
July 1st**

Dues are:

\$20 for individuals

\$25 for families

\$40 for business members

(allows a business size ad in
the Newsletter).

See Maggie to renew for 2013/2014.

OR Mail to:

CCCSS

c/o Maggie Wagner

780 Merced Street

Pismo Beach, CA, 93449

CHANGE IN MEETING DATE

**October Meeting:
OCTOBER 20, 2013**

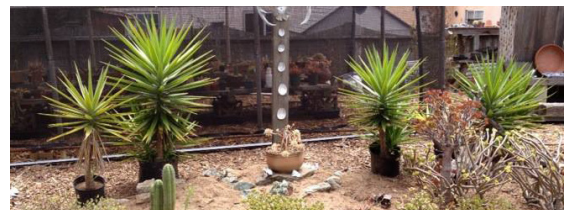
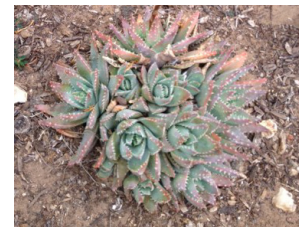
Update on Tweezers

I am sorry to say that I was unable to obtain the tweezers set that I spoke about at the club meeting. It is a company from Pakistan. When I attempted to place an order, they doubled the price and stated I had to purchase a minimum of 100 sets. Needless to say, I decided it would not be wise to give my credit card information to such a company. Sorry for the inconvenience it may have caused any of you!

FREE PLANTS

Free *Aloe brevifolia*
clusters and agave trees
for club members.

Contact Charles Varni at
459-6698



SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

TOM COLE

“Aloes Across Africa We Don't Often Get To See”



articles on two new species of Aloe from Uganda, Aloe butiabana and Aloe wanalensis. And Tom is a five time World Frisbee Champion!

Tom's program will feature species in habitat from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. Tom Cole is a Santa Barbara native who has traveled, studied, lived and worked in Sub-Saharan Africa for 11 years. He is the co-owner and operator of Cold Spring Aloes, a local specialty nursery dedicated to landscape forms of aloe, euphorbia and other succulents. He uses many of these plants in projects as a garden designer. His ongoing work as a humanitarian aid worker and livelihoods consultant has given him the opportunity to observe and document many species of Aloe not commonly seen. In 2011 Tom co-authored

PLANT OF THE MONTH

ALOE

BY MARKUS MUMPER

Plantae, Angiosperms, Monocots, Asparagales, Xanthorrhoeaceae, Asphodeloideae [Linnaeus]

'Aloe' – From the Greek [aloe], Arabian [alloch] and Hebrew [ahalim] names for plants.

This popular group consists of about three hundred succulent plants which are found from Arabia to South Africa. These plants may grow in the form of small, stemless rosette of fleshy leaves to a huge tree thirty plus feet in height. Aloe have many uses; smaller varieties and hybrids make great container plants while most are excellent for use as landscape plants in warm regions. The leaves of these succulents grow from the center of the plant and can range in length from one inch to two feet. The thick, fleshy leaves are able to store great amounts of water during a rainy season and are therefore able to survive through drought. Many kinds of Aloes bear pretty spikes of flowers. In Winter and Spring flower stems bearing bunches of tubular-shaped flowers are produced. The long-lasting blossoms may be red, orange, green or sometimes yellow. They are followed by small, green berries which ripen into brown pods.

These plants are easy to grow in both the ground and containers. On the Central Coast South County residents can grow them without protection whereas North County residents may need to help them if extreme frost is anticipated. Culture is typical for succulents: well drained soil, occasional 'feeding' and allow the soil to pretty much dry out between waterings. Unlike some succulents Aloes can be watered year round.

Seeds may be sown in late Winter or Spring in a well-drained pot containing a sandy soil mixture. Bottom heat is not required. Seeds and new plants need to be kept moist but not over watered. Another method is detaching suckers from around the base of the plant in the Summer and placing in a sandy, loamy soil. Aloes that have treelike stems can be propagated by cutting the stems just beneath a joint. Lay them on a shelf and allow a corky skin to form over the severed surface; this will discourage decay. They are then inserted into pots of sandy soil. Bottom heat will help Tree Aloes to root. Apply water sparingly, some species may benefit from a light application of rooting hormone.

The dried juice of the leaves of several Aloes, but mainly *A. vera*, is commonly used to relieve some skin irritations. The leaves are broken and the oozing juice is collected in containers to be spread on the desired areas.

A. variegata (Partridge-Breasted Aloe; Tiger Aloe; Kanniedood Aloe) forms a rosette, nine inches high and two feet wide, of green leaves marked horizontally with white stripes. The leaves will spiral with age. In the Spring, flowers ranging in color from salmon to scarlet are borne. ⇨



A. dichotoma (Tree Aloe) is one of the largest species in the group. The Tree Aloe can reach a height of thirty feet. The individual rosettes, growing up to two feet wide, are made up of dull green leaves that are two inches wide and one foot long. In the winter, a few spikes of yellow flowers are produced. ⇨



A. harlana is a handsome variety that is suitable for growing as a houseplant. Pale green leaves, banded with dark green, grow in rosettes eight inches in diameter. In the spring, spikes of pale pink flowers are produced. ⇨

Plant Crazy: CCCSS Does Ojai

Wayne Mills, CCCSS

Thirty three plant lovers from the Central Coast descended on two nurseries in Ojai and one in Ventura on a sunny Saturday, July 20. The trip was arranged by **Jim Harlow**, as a thank you to the volunteers who helped make our recent show and sale such a success. The bus picked a group in San Luis Obispo about 7:00 am, and made the second pick-up in Pismo Beach about 7:20 am, as scheduled. **Harry and Mary Harlow** greeted the passengers with bags of breakfast goodies including muffin, banana, protein bar and cheese. And there was lots of coffee. Harry and Mary also brought the eight raffle plants that Rob Skillin had provided for the trip. Wayne Mills had the pleasant duty of raffling off one plant per half hour on the way down and back from the nurseries. Though it was unfortunate that there was not a plant for all the folks on the bus, the following people went home with at least one nice succulent: Johanna Jones, Dave Anderson, Roy Sheehy, Kris Georsach, Nancy Kelly, Gene Schroeder, Sherri Small, and Randy Ball. Carol Harlow (Jim's wife) took home the rest of the box of red um...fruit juice that we enjoyed on the way back to Pismo. Judging from how full the bays of the bus were, everyone had a great time, and I am sure the nurseries will welcome our business any time. The bus pulled into the Outlet Center in Pismo Beach about 5:00 pm, and the south county folks unloaded their plants and took them home to plant. There were some great plants on that bus, including Randy Ball's six-foot tall *Pachypodium* and Harry Harlow's beautiful white-flowered Australian native tree.

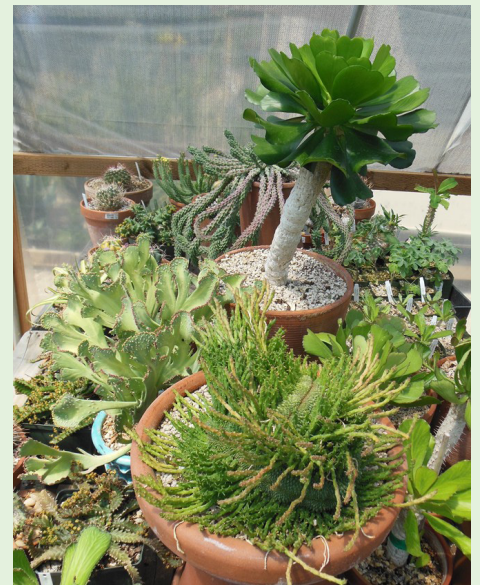
The nurseries that we visited were (in order): **Desert Images** (505 Prospect, (805-649-4479), **Australian Native Plant Nursery** (9040 N Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA (805) 649-3362), and **Tierra Del Sol Garden Center** (5320 Overpass Rd, Santa Barbara, CA (805) 964-7811). Jim did a great job selecting these nurseries as they each had their own unique "properties" that made visiting them a wonderful treat. The proprietors of all these establishments were quite helpful and knowledgeable. Here are some pictures from the trip:



Australian Natives Garden



Desert Images



Tierra Sol

Upcoming Events

August 17-18

28th Annual Intercity Show & Sale, 9am to 5pm. LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. For info: Tom Glavich: 626-798-2430 or John Matthews: 661-297-5364.

August 31

Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium. Info: 626-405-2160.

September 14-15

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society 2013 Show & Sale. Jardines Restaurant Garden, San Juan Bautista. Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9-4pm.

September 22

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA. For info: 310-922-6090

October 12

Charles & Joann Spotts Plant Auction (Phase II). Details as the date nears.

October 20

CCCSS Monthly meeting; changed from 10/13.

November 2-3

San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale. Hours: 9-4. LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, CA. For info: Tom Glavich: 626-798-2430 or John Matthews: 661-297-5364.

Board of Directors Meeting July 14, 2013

After a lengthy meeting, some nice folks stayed behind to help the Board straighten up the room, after which the Board met for a short time in the meeting room, then adjourned to the seating area outside in order to make way for the next group who reserved the room.

A spirited discussion of various issues ensued, including talking about special classifications of membership, which will be discussed further in the future. The governmental powers-that-be have informed us that we cannot have our October 2013 meeting on the second Sunday in October. The date has been changed to October 20 and repeated announcements will be posted in *On the Dry Side* and other media. This led to a discussion of the suitability of our current meeting location at the SLO library and a free-ranging discussion of alternatives. It is a matter that will have to be resolved sooner rather than later, especially because our membership has increased to the point where we cannot seat everyone in the current room. In addition to the change of date for the October meeting, it was noted that CCCSS will be hosting the Executive Committee of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. at that meeting.

Treasurer Maggie Wagner presented the 2012-13 fiscal year-end financial statement and the accompanying 2013 Show and Sale financial statement. The Board voted to accept these reports. An additional discussion on the need for an auditor was raised and will be examined and recommendations made at the next Board meeting.

Kathie Matsuyama suggested that we consider funding a scholarship. After much discussion, it was agreed that Kathie will research this further and present a report at the next meeting. Regarding the August meeting, President Varni's son is being married that day and Kathie will preside over the meeting, with Carol Moss as a backup.

A brief recap of the Show and Sale was presented by Rob Skillin. He will ask each of the sub-committee chairpersons to prepare a notebook of procedures for future reference.

At that point your tired, dedicated and hard-working board adjourned.

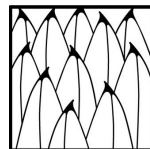
Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

NAME TAGS

Name tags for members who joined CCCSS in January or later are in the accordion file at the front desk. If you don't have a name tag or would like a new one, please contact Carol at: carol.moss@gmail.com
She will put one in the file for you the following meeting. Carol will put a personal succulent photo on it if you send one to her.

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

CLUB OFFICERS/ CONTACT INFORMATION



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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.

LIBRARY NEWS

Our librarian, Gene Schroeder, has notified me of these recent additions to the club library.

Caudiciform & Pachycaul Succulents, by Gordon Rowley -- 1987, 282 pages, HB
-general, beautiful coffee table book that really ignited the "fat plant" fad – a must read

Encyclopedia of Cacti, by Cullman, Gotz & Groner – 1986, 340 pages, HB
-general, guide to over 750 cacti species with detailed descriptions of form and flower

Pachycaul and Caudiciform Plants, A Guide to Growing, Philippe de Vosjoli – 2009, 319 Pages, PB
-great beginners guide to "fat plants" also Rob's bible. Good information on culture for this area

Succulents II: The Illustrated Dictionary, by M. Sajeve & M. Costanzo – 2000, 234 pages, HB
-general, Volume II which is a continuation of the above, lots of photos, good for IDs

All of these will be available for reserve prior to the Sep meeting. Watch the NL for details.

If you would like Gene to bring a specific library book in to the meeting, please contact him at:

leschroeder@earthlink.net 929-2161

LINKS OF INTEREST

<http://made-in-afrika.com/aloes/aloes.A-%20I.htm> ALOE IMAGES

<http://www.plantzafrica.com/frames/plantsfram.htm> A very informative link to South African plants.


www.cactuspro.com/biblio/en:accueil is a site where you can download books and journals on our hobby.

www.cssainc.org is the new website for the Cactus & Succulent Society of America.

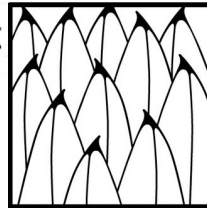
T-SHIRTS AND CAPS

If you would like to purchase a club t-shirt or hat, please contact Susan (aka. "Braids") braids97@sbcglobal.net
And she will bring your item to the meeting. The shirts are \$10 and the hats are \$12. XL 2012 show shirts are \$5.

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