

On the Dry Side

APRIL 2013

CCCSS March Meeting Recap

3/10/2013

President Charles Varni opened the meeting by thanking the members who provided snacks, and by welcoming first-time visitors. All received a free plant in recognition of their contributions. It was reported that the CCCSS field trip on February 16 to Lotusland and San Marcos Growers was a successful event – they have become so popular that they sell out quickly. Other upcoming events were discussed and are listed in this mailing under “[Upcoming Events](#)”.

Show & Sale: Rob Skillin presented an update on planning for the May S&S (show and sale). Loring Manley is organizing volunteers for setting up and taking down the event on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon. Please sign up with Loring to help. Pat Gilson is mentoring Loring, and Charles Varni is being mentored by Rob for taking over as chairperson of the S&S planning committee. Volunteers are welcomed and needed, and everyone who works at the S&S will receive a reward. Last year’s reward was a hugely discounted fee for a trip to the CSSA show and sale at The Huntington Gardens. Rob also asked for ideas to brighten up the end of the gymnasium opposite the stage. Last year the vendor at that end thought the area was too dark.

We will have another commemorative t-shirt design contest for the 7th Annual Show and Sale. **PEOPLE!** Last year’s contest had TWO entries. Come on ... get out your drawing supplies and bring your designs to the upcoming meeting. If your design is chosen, just imagine how proud you will be to see dozens of folks wearing what YOU dreamed up! It’s exhilarating (I guess!). Designs should be simple and bold. It was suggested that tote bags and visors could also be sold with our logo. The design should include 7th Annual Show and Sale and 2013. We will also produce more of the older, simpler shirts that were sold a few years ago in a different color from the previous black and green shirts.

Markus Mumper, with help from his wife, Maggie Wagner, presented the Plant-of-the-Month: Haworthias, still another of our favorite succulents from South Africa. They remain small, making them good for pots. They hybridize easily and cross-pollinate freely, resulting in endless varieties. They even cross with Gasteria! [I believe I have heard them referred to as promiscuous ... who knew?] Anyway ... they are mostly fall and spring growers, and they have interesting effects, including translucence with water or light angles. Markus even thinks they are fun to touch. Their flowers are white, scentless and insignificant. They are pollinated by hummingbirds, but because they reproduce so indiscriminately, gardeners often keep the hummers away. With no natural pollinator, the plants have to be pollinated with a fine brush ... the word tedious was used to describe the process. They are easy to cultivate but don’t like frost – protect them in winter and don’t water. To judge if they are being watered correctly, jiggle them in their pot. If firm and hard, everything is fine, but if they jiggle around, they are probably being overwatered. Rob commented that he gives his Haworthias a lot of light which makes them more compact and a good color. When the weather gets hotter, he protects them with shade cloth. They get full sun in winter.

Rob Skillin also discussed the raffle plants and Charles Varni read a letter from California Assembly member Katcho Achadjian thanking CCCSS for our December 2012 contribution to the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Again, thank you to our enthusiastic and engaged members whose participation made the donation possible and, indeed, makes the existence of the club possible.

We were then introduced to our speaker, Mike Bush, the current Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden who previously worked for the Government of Singapore on its development of Gardens by the Bay. Singapore’s environment is that of a rainforest, with one hundred inches of rain per year. Monthly totals range from six to ten inches per month, with an average temperature range of 95 degrees to 72 degrees. The record low temperature in Singapore is 66 degrees! To deal with such an environment, Singapore built enormous structures to house their plants and succulents in a controlled atmosphere. The budget was One Billion Dollars. If you did not see Mike Bush’s fascinating presentation on the construction of this incredible project, or for more information, you should look it up on the Internet. Search for “Gardens by the Bay” and “Singapore.”

A short break for refreshments was followed by the raffles, and Charles adjourned the meeting.

~ Submitted by Carol Moss, Secretary



Message from the Prez

Good morning succulentphiles. I know you all have your calendars marked for our big May 25 and 26 show/sale with stars, red circles, and astericks. It is truly a great and fun event as we let our succulent flags fly for everyone to see and admire. This is a club event and we have need for volunteers to help with 3 pm set-up on Friday May 24; take down after the show on Sunday May 26 4 pm; and during the show in two hour increments to help with security, plant hotel, cashiering, etc. There will be sign up sheets at our April meeting for those able to assist and....we have a special subsidized field trip in the planning stages for those who do volunteer. It is the energy our members put into the club that makes us what we are. Thanks to all of you who give so much.

----- Charles

Contacts for volunteering:

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

****We are in desperate need of volunteers with legible handwriting and the ability to use a calculator for a 4 hour shift Saturday morning. You would be part of a team that will be responsible for a new “pre-checkout” system that should help the payment line move more quickly.****

Do you have that special plant that needs a new home?

QUALITY SHOW POTS FOR SALE

• Richard Rowe, Ben Trogdon, and Charles Varni will be offering
• their wares at the April meeting. *cash or check only please*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

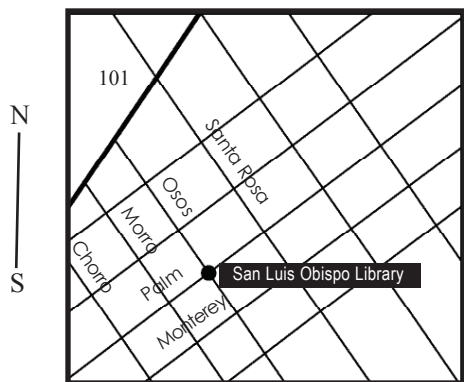
3/10/2013

Charles Varni brought the meeting to order. The board discussed whether to reimburse folks who purchased seats for the Lotusland trip but did not attend. It was agreed that “no-shows” would not be reimbursed. The board agreed to reimburse in full anyone who made a deposit to be included on the waiting list but for whom there was no seat. The Treasurer presented her report which was accepted as presented. Charles reported that we would be terminating our contract with TransFirst and would forfeit the \$250 fee that TransFirst refused to reduce further from its original offer to reduce the fee from \$500 to \$250. Suggestions were discussed for possible speakers at future meetings. Board members also agreed that Gene Schroeder will present a plant-of-the-month program on Mammillaria, and the April meeting will have a presentation on staging for the show and authorized members will bring potting materials, pots and related items for sale. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Submitted by Carol Moss, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:

Sun. April 14 at
2:00 pm



San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

Our own CCCSS show experts!

This month will be dedicated to instructing members on the fine points of showing our beloved Cacti and Succulents. Since we do not have a regular speaker, members are allowed to bring pots and top-dressing to sell (no plants please). These items will be available for purchase for all meeting attendees.

We will also be voting on t-shirt design (See item below) We will also be selecting possible t-shirt colors.

For **inspiration on staging your plant**, visit
Gene Schroeder' photographs of the 2012 CCCSS Show & Sale at:
<http://tinyurl.com/2012-CCCSS-Show>
(hit "slideshow" upper right corner)

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Our 7th Annual Show and Sale is coming up in May, and we are planning to commemorate it with a special T shirt, as we have done in years past.

Work up a design, bring it in to the April meeting, and the most popular design will be put on the shirt. For best results, keep your design simple and graphic so its easy to reproduce. Integrating the club's name, the event name (7th annual Show and Sale), and possibly the date (2013) into the design would be a plus.

The Digital Library – Mammillaria

PLANT OF THE MONTH

There are many sources on the internet dedicated to Mammillaria. As usual, they vary greatly in quality and usefulness. Here are my suggested starting points to the latest, best, and most reliable information on Mammillaria.

<http://www.tucsoncactus.org/cgi-bin/MySQLdb/DisplayCollection.php?Collection=Gallery5>
Photo gallery of mamms you will likely find in cultivation or own –from the Tucson C&S society. Good way to identify your own plants as these images are mostly of cultivated plants.

<http://www.mammillarias.net>

This is the mother ship. More than 2000 Mammillaria pictures, more than 200 Mammillaria species described, 250 distribution maps and over than 9000 Mammillaria field collection numbers listed. This site offers enough info to begin a Masters or PhD on mamms.

http://www.afm-mammillaria.de/en_index.html

Arbeitskreis für Mammillarienfrende “, the German society – page in English or Deutsche, is also invaluable. Check the interactive Mexico map and the list of “related pages” for most anything Mamillaria

http://plantillustrations.org/taxonomy.php?id_taxon=70780

Useful illustrations of many types of plants for accurate labeling for the upcoming show.

If you still can't tell one from another and would like to, see Dave Furgeson's view. It's the easiest to understand (and that's just relative) <http://www.mammillarias.net/dave.php>

Good surfing ... Gene Schroeder



PLANT OF THE MONTH

MAMMILLARIA

APRIL

BY GENE SCHROEDER

Mammillaria

The Genus Mammillaria was described by Adrian Haworth in 1812 but this name, from the Latin mamilla = nipple or teat + aria = possessing, a reference to the tubercles (podaria) had already been used as a genus of alge. After some shuffling around (Britton and Rose's neomammellaria as example) the International Botanical Congress of 1930 acted to conserve the name Mammillaria. It also became conserved as the type genus of the family Cactaceae.

Depending on the source, there are about 200 recognized species organized in anywhere from 5 to 20 subgroups based on differences in flower, seed or just morphology. Almost all are endemic to Mexico with only a few species found across the US border, in Central or Northern South America or islands in the Caribbean.

Reading the general description will promptly lead to A) a headache or B) an understanding of why there are so many differing classifications, groups, subgroups, species, subspecies, etc that have intrigued and bedeviled scientist and collector for 200 years.

My distilled view is that most of these species are globose or ball-shaped plants which grow either solitary or in clumps. Some clumps may reach over 3 feet in diameter with many stems. Few species grow much over around 6-8 inches in height by 4-6 inches in diameter. All species have the defining character of nipple-like tubercles with dimorphic areoles on the ends. Spines may be stiff and stout, few or many, bristle-like, hair-like or pectinate (comb-like) and in a wide range of colors. In the axils between the tubercles, there may be wool, bristles, both or neither. Flowers arise from second-year growth in the axils and often form a ring around the stem. In many species the flowers are small pink, yellow or white and less than half-an-inch in diameter. A few species have larger showy flowers which stand on long floral tubes above the plant. The flower petals may feature a darker midstripe. The fruits are typically red, tube-like structures resembling little candies and are edible which is a temptation to both collector and any birds or rodents around.

Another notable character of most mamms is that the tubercles are not arranged in ribs like many other cacti. They instead, emerge from the meristem (central growing point) in a pattern that follows the Fibonacci sequence which, in biological settings, describes the spiral forms found in many plants. Common examples of this arrangement are pinecones, or the nautilus shell where it is often called the golden spiral. Look at your mamm straight down to see this.

This has long been about the most popular group of cacti in cultivation. The small size and generally quick and easy growth, combine with great variation in color and spination to make them great candidates for mass distribution resulting in their being found in virtually any garden center or nursery. Even to non C&S addicts, they have become the stereotypical cactus and almost everyone has a few in small plastic pots, dish gardens or in the ground.

Beyond the garden center, this group has many less common but very desirable species to entice us and many very good information sources to learn more. Look for them at our upcoming show both as exhibits and vendor offerings.

References for this article*:

"The Mammillaria Handbook" -R.T. Craig's 1945 classic on the genus

"The Cactus Family" -E. F. Anderson

"The Encyclopedia of Cacti" -Cullmann, Gotz & Groner

"The New Cactus Lexicon" -The International Cactaceae Systematics Group

"Mammillaria, A Collectors Guide" - John Pilbeam

* All of these are currently out of print but most are available as reprints or used.



M. hernandezii



M. theresae



M occidentalis



M matudae



M. saboae haudeana



M crucigera

LIBRARY NEWS.....by Gene Schroeder

PLEASE LOOK THROUGH YOUR BOOKS AT HOME

The books listed below are missing from our library inventory. Some may be simply long overdue, others, missed in the checkout records, or just borrowed. Please check to see if you have any of these and please return them so that other members may have them available.

- Cacti & Succulents Step by Step Growing Success, by B. Keen – PB
- Cacti and Succulents, by Gunther Anderson -- 1983, 312 pages -- HB
- Cacti: The Illustrated Dictionary, by R. & K. Preston-Mafham – HB
- Cactus Basics, by Tony & Susan Mace -- PB
- Caudiciform & Pachycaul Succulents, by Gordon Rowley -- HB
- Complete Book of Cacti and Succulents, by T. Hewitt -- HB
- Crassulas in Cultivation, by Vera Higgins -- 1964, 80 pages, HB
- Encyclopedia of Cacti, by Cullman, Gotz & Groner – HB
- Haworthia Handbook, The New , by M. B. Bayer -- SB
- Mesembs of the World, by Gideon Smith -- HB
- Pachycaul & Caudiciform Plants, A Guide to Growing, by P. de Vosjoli --SB
- Sanseveria, The Splendid, by B. Juan Chahinian – SB
- Succulent Success in the Garden, by Kapitany & Shulz – HB

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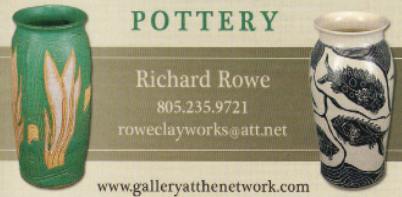
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Upcoming Events

April 13

Our local Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association open house. Go to the website for map and details: <http://ccgga.com/events/event/12th-annual-ccgga-open-house-event>

April 13-14

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale. South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. For information: 310-832-2262.

April 20

The **Los Osos Valley Garden Club's** annual Plant Sale is set for Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the rear patio of Rexall Drug of Los Osos, 989 Los Osos Valley Road.

April 20-21

C&SS of San Jose Show & Sale. Buchser Middle School, 1111 Bellomy Street, Santa Clara, CA. <http://www.csss.org/>

April 27- **Charles and Joann Spotts Auction** (see email flyer)

April 27-28

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

April 28

Huntington Plant Sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Huntington Botanical Gardens. San Marino, CA..

May 5

Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale. MacKenzie Park, Santa Barbara, CA, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Directions on Website: <http://www.sbcactus.org>

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

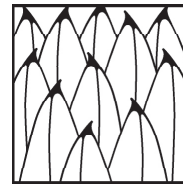
San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale. Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. For information: 858-382-1797 <http://www.sdcss.net>

June 8-9

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

June 15 to 20

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