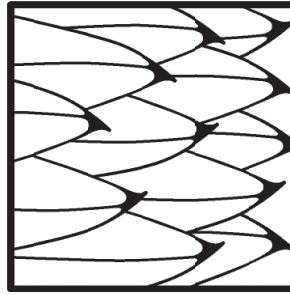


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Markus Mumper
780 Merced St.
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



On the Dry Side

April 2010

Inside this issue: CCCSS March Meeting Recap

- Upcoming Speaker
- Debra Lee Baldwin
- Genus of the Month
- Aloe
- Last Month's
- Meeting Minutes

We have a couple of Club Field Trips coming up. One confirmed trip is April 10th to **Anne Erb's** (succulent & traditional bonsai) and then on to **Muranaka Bonsai**. They are both located in Nipomo. If you are interested or have questions call **Wayne Mills** at 481-3495.

SHOW & SALE NEWS: Ludwick Center, San Luis Obispo, May 29th & 30th. **Rob Skillin** would like to encourage members to submit an educational exhibit; This is a great way to help educate people attending our show. We are also looking for people (for the cost of approximately \$9.00 each) to sponsor a Best in Show ribbon. A few from last year were: Best Baja Plant, Best Staged Plant and Best Cactus. So – you sponsor the ribbon - you pick the category. We will have show plant entry cards at our next meeting so you can have them all filled out before the day of the show. All you novices please think about entering your show plants. Be proud of the plants that you pamper all year...come on, try it!! Also, we can always use volunteers for our show so please see **Pat** at front desk if you can help. Thanks.

Remember, bring in your T-shirt designs to the April meeting. We will vote for the winner at the meeting. One last reminder, please return any library books you may have so all the members have a chance to use them.

Our speaker of the month was **Guillermo Rivera**, owner of **Cactus Expeditions** (www.cactusexpeditions.com.ar). His program was titled *Cacti of Peru, Land of the Incas*. Guillermo is a botanist, tour guide and birder who started his tour company nine years ago. His presentation covered the many beautiful bromeliads and a wide variety of cacti & succulents native to Peru. He had so many beautiful pictures to share but some of the *Melocactus* were especially nice. These are a very unusual looking cactus genus with a cephalium growing on top. In its native habitat some species can grow to be as big as a basketball. One special shot was of the *Puya raimondii* which flowers every 100 or so years. On Guillermo's last visit he was fortunate to see these plants in bloom, which can have flower stalks twenty feet tall. That was one spectacular picture! This country is rich in flora and fauna and after watching his presentation I was ready to go to Peru! Thanks Guillermo for a very informative program.

See you in April! ~Jan Moon

Speaker of the Month _____

Debra Lee Baldwin, Author of Succulent Container Gardens

Gardeners, botanical gardens, and landscape architects are using more and more water-wise succulents. Debra Lee Baldwin, award-winning photojournalist will demonstrate how these top designers use succulents to enhance gardens large and small with spectacular blooms and foliage of every color including, for example, cherry red, sky blue and magenta-black.

Debra Lee Baldwin is a regular contributor to The Los Angeles Times, major gardening magazines, and was the succulent consultant for the latest edition of the Sunset Western Garden Book. As an expert on succulents, Debra has given presentations at major botanical gardens and garden shows throughout the western U.S. and at the Philadelphia International Flower Show. Debra's books, Succulent Container Gardens and Designing with Succulents are best sellers. Learn more at www.debraleebaldwin.com and www.succulentchic.net.

Sponsored by Timber Press, Cal Poly Ornamental Horticulture Department, Grow, the Nursery at Moonstone Gardens and the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden.

Top Dressing _____

Our annual Show & Sale is quickly approaching (May 29th & 30th). In an effort to help our club members get their plants looking their best we are going to have top dressings available at the April and May meetings. There will be several different types to choose from – red lava, black lava, crushed granite, crushed brick, beige rock and green rock. All will be packaged in quart bags. For current members the first bag is free, each additional bag is \$1.00. For non-members each bag is be \$2.00.

T-Shirt Contest _____

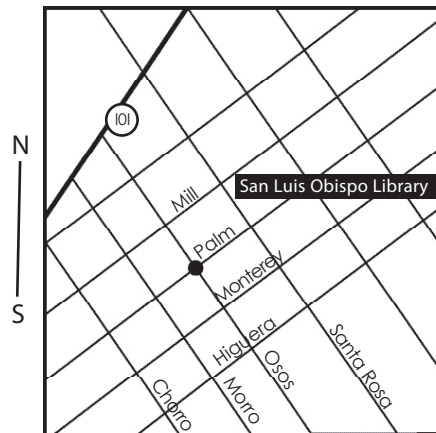
For all you artistic people: we are looking for some new designs for our CCCSS club t-shirt that we will once again be selling at our upcoming show. The different designs will be displayed at the April meeting for your vote. So bring your designs to the April meeting or you can also forward your design (or questions) to Nick's e-mail at: nick@grownursery.com.

NEXT meeting:

Sun, Apr. 11'th at
2:00 pm

San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

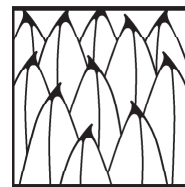


NEWS FROM THE MARCH BOARD MEETING:

- Many members still haven't paid 2010 dues, we need to get everyone paid up so that they can be included in new roster and future events
- We have an Assistant, Kathy Geyer, that will help Jeannie and Martin update the library files
- Wayne Mills is our new publicity person
- Show planning was the primary topic:
 - Purchase of a new cash register giving us three for the show
 - Show flyer and business cards will be available for distribution
 - The club will buy a pizza lunch for all Saturday volunteers

BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on April 11'th right after our General Meeting. As always all members are welcome.



Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
e-mail: markusmumper@gmail.com

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

PRESIDENT Gene Schroeder 929-2161	VICE PRESIDENT Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	SECRETARY Jan Moon 927-1310	CCSS AFFILIATE Rob Skillin 473-0788	TREASURER Edie Price 489-8491
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EDITOR Markus Mumper 773-1499	ASST. EDITOR Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	PUBLICITY Wayne Mills 481-3495	LIBRARIANS Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanyasz 544-5389	HOSPITALITY Pat Gilson 481-5596 Maggie Wagner 773-1499
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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.

You Must See These DVDs!
Enter CCCSS For 10% Off +Free Shipping

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**EL CHOYERO
SPEAKS:**

Hola Amigo!

Question: How do I get plants ready for the upcoming plant show?

Answer: This wisdom was sent to me by a good friend —

- 1) About a month before the show, go get a favorite plant from your yard, window, greenhouse, office, etc.
- 2) Inspect the plant and clean it up as necessary
 - remove dead parts, bugs and cobwebs
 - clean plant with water, Windex, or vinegar (don't clean plants with a powdery coating)
 - clean the pot or repot, finishing with fresh top dressing
 - mark the plant so you can identify it later (hide a tag below soil level)
- 3) Get out the show guide and find your plant's class
- 4) Make out an entry tag
 - use correct name... including spelling
 - mark the show class
 - don't forget your name too
 - if not sure of any of these, ask for help at setup
- 5) Enjoy your plant - now looking better than ever
- 6) Repeat as necessary
- 7) Bring plant and tag to the show on Friday
- 8) Make a list of your show plants so you can check that you have them all when it's time to leave
- 9) Bring cleaning stuff, extra topping, etc. to show set up., something always gets overlooked or dropped!
- 10) Don't take anything too seriously., we're here primarily to share our hobby with others, we might also do a bit of bragging. ~G.S.

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Upcoming Events

April 10

The Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose

Buchser Middle School - 9:00am to 5:00pm
1111 Belomy St., Santa Clara (408) 295-1634

April 17

Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association Annual Open House

Various locations (South County) - 8:00am to 3:00pm
For a map go to www.ccgga.com or call (800) 961-8901

April 17 - 18

Green Scene Plant Sale

Fullerton Arboretum - 10:00am to 4:00pm
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton (657) 278-3407

May 1 - 2

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society 50th Annual Show & Sale

Sacramento Garden and Art Center
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento (530) 753-7011

May 1 - 2

Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City (310) 822-1783

May 2

South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale

South Coast Botanical Gardens - 9:00am to 4:00pm
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes (310) 833-6823

May 15

Gates Cactus & Succulent Society

Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center - 9:00am to 4:00pm
7621 Granite Hill Drive, Avon (909) 360-8802

May 15 -16

Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale

Los Angeles County Arboretum - 9:00am to 4:00pm
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia (310) 670-8148

Hospitality News

Sign up to bring refreshments and get a 4 inch plant!! You must sign the **Hospitality Sign-Up sheet** and bring refreshments to get a plant. We need refreshments for each monthly meeting and we need to know who is bringing them. Thanks to everyone who has been contributing to the refreshment fund; donations can be made at the refreshment table.

~Pat

Aloe *(Al-oh)* From the Arabic *Alloeh* (bitter), ancient derivation

Aloes are one of the most popular landscape and potted succulent plants grown in cultivation. They vary in size from barely 1" tall to over 40' tall and nearly as wide. They come in a variety of shades of blue, green, grey, purple, red etc., and a nearly equal variety of shapes. And, as a group, they are relatively easy, carefree plants to grow. If they never flowered they would still be extremely popular plants for gardeners, collectors, landscapers and public gardens. But they have the fantastic additional attraction of making an enormous and breathtaking variety of beautiful and fascinating flowers. This extra 'perk' makes Aloes one of the premier choices of all succulent plants one can grow.

One might not be aware of this variety if one's only experience with Aloes is through *Aloe vera*, the most common traditional Aloe and one which frankly has one of the least interesting flowers of all Aloe species. Aloe flowers vary tremendously in size, shape, color and seasonal occurrence.....

Some of the words used to describe Aloe flowers should be explained. First of all, the actual flowers are the small, individual tubular to bell-shaped colorful structures that make up the raceme part of the inflorescence.

The inflorescence is the entire flowering structure - not just the pretty part with the colors, but the stem also. Some inflorescences are solitary (just one flowering structure per Aloe) while some are multiple (many Aloes have multiple flowering structures, either at the same time, or in succession).

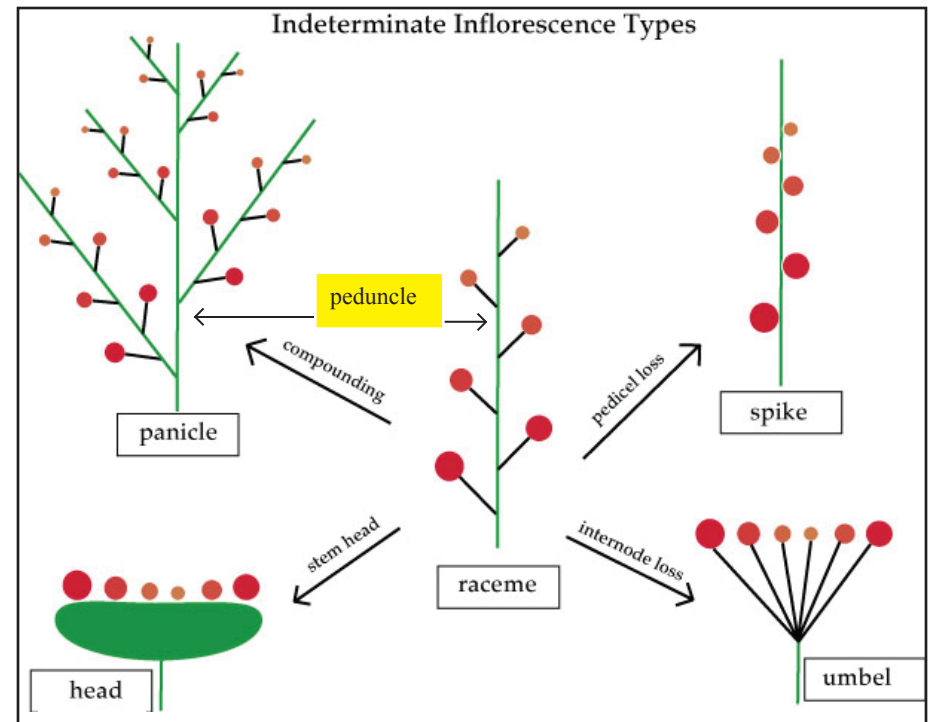
Some inflorescences are branching and some are non-branching. Raceme refers to the part that has the flowers themselves (the pretty colored part). An Open Raceme means the flowers are separated from each other by space, while a Compact Raceme is one in which the flowers are tightly packed together. Some racemes are conical, some are cylindrical, some are tubular (long cylinders), some are globoid (roundish) and some are 'head-shaped' or semi-globoid (rounded on the top but flat on the bottom).

The Peduncle supports the raceme (like a trunk supports the branches of a tree). That's probably most of the technical terms we use when describing Aloe flowers- the rest are far less technical (eg. corn-cob-like, bushy, fuzzy etc.).

~Palm Bob

CCCSS Private Garden Tour

Mark your calendar! On Sunday April 25th from 10 am to 4 pm, our club will be hosting the first ever South County tour of 6 private gardens and greenhouses for our club members and guests only. This exclusive tour will not be advertised to the general public. You won't want to miss this amazing collection of great cacti and succulents gardens and greenhouses in Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, and Huasna. Collect tips about garden design and plant care. Don't forget your camera! Light refreshments will be served in some gardens. Plants may also be for sale. Cost is \$10 per person. The funds will be used to support club field trips and special events this year. Tickets for the garden tour will be available at our April club meeting or at several of the gardens on the tour. If you would like to volunteer to help at one of the gardens on tour day or for more information, please call Kathie Matsuyama at 929-4692.



This is an example of an open raceme - *Aloe graminicola*



While this unknown Aloe has a more compact raceme



This *Aloe castanea* has unusual twisted and upright flowers, but amazing nonetheless

