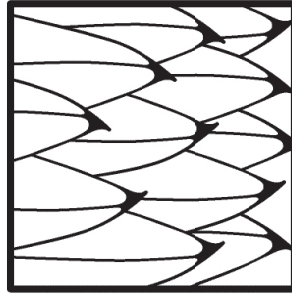


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Markus Mumpser
780 Merced St.
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



On the Dry Side

April, 2012

CCCSS March Meeting Recap

IT'S SPRING, we've had some rain, and we have an extra hour of light in the evening – life is good for gardeners this time of year. We had another large turnout for our March meeting and we greeted a large number of visitors. President **Gene Schroeder** announced that **Mary Peracca** is chairperson of the Elections Committee. Elections will be held during the May meeting and officers will be installed in June. We need board members for the positions of Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, and members are encouraged to run for those positions and any others you might want to pursue. It's a wonderful way to contribute to the success of our organization and to meet fellow succulent lovers. **Rob Skillin** announced that the Show & Sale (S&S) committee is having a t-shirt contest, headed by **Nicole DeVecchio**, for the design on our 2012 S&S shirt. Simple designs/ line drawings with just a few colors work best. Bring your designs to the April meeting where they will be voted on. The winner will get their design printed on the shirts! Rob also mentioned that we need volunteers for setting up and taking down the S&S on May 25 and 27 – sign up with Rob or **Pat Gilson** – and volunteers will be rewarded with a discount on a tour to the Huntington Gardens on Saturday, June 30, which is being organized by **Jim Harlow**. Details on the tour will be provided later. Gene discussed the quarterly board meeting of the seven district clubs in the Montaña de Oro Garden Club that will be held in June. The meeting will be held in the SLO Library in a room next door to our room and the attendees will join us for our monthly meeting.

Our Plant-of-the-Month feature was presented by **Charles Spotts**, who has a special gift for presenting a lot of information in an interesting manner. This month we were educated about a portion of the *Mammillaria* genus, globular, hook-spined *Mammillarias*. *Mammillarias* are so-named because of their nipple shaped areoles. There are over 400 species which vary greatly. Large shows divide them into twelve or more groups based on various visual factors such as the color of the flower, whether they are single or clustered, the type of spine, whether they are naked or fuzzy, and so on. As usual, Charles has written an informative article which you can read for lots more information on "mamms". They are sensitive to overwatering, so let them dry out between waterings. Rob told us that lithops are now ready to water – the new heads are appearing and the old leaves are reabsorbing. There will be more information about show plants as we get closer to the show, but Rob said that it is acceptable to enter plants with dead leaves and/or flowers.

Tim Harvey, who last went to Namibia in 2011, was our guest speaker, and let us come along by showing us his photography of the tour. Namibia is a new country, with an educated populace that speaks English. The area is twice as large as California but has only two million residents. Tim's work showed the vast difference in the appearance and condition of plants between the dry and wet seasons – a dramatic contrast between brown versus green, lush versus sere. Thanks, Tim, for letting us tag along with you.

~Carol Moss

March Board Meeting Notes:

- The positions of Newsletter Editor and Treasurer are still open.
- A separate committee is being formed to review and update the by-laws.
- Edie Price gave the Treasurer's report. The Board and our entire organization give thanks and appreciation to Edie for her years of service to CCCSS as she retires as Treasurer.
- Our non-profit status vis-à-vis CSSA was discussed at some length. We have obligations related to our new status and talked about ways to meet those obligations such as charitable contributions, donation of books, a scholarship or other benevolent activities.
- The logistics of the joint meeting with the other members of the Montaña de Oro Garden Clubs (space requirements, etc.) were discussed.
- Maggie Wagner reported on our library and will put a list of the books we own on our Web site. The disposition of physical copies of old journals, which are now available on-line, was discussed.
- S&S Committee activities were updated. A flyer announcing the S&S has been approved and will be distributed by e-mail to all members on the e-mail list. Copies will be available at the April meeting for posting and distribution by members. We will also have cards again this year. The possibility of holding an auction of show-quality plants on Sunday afternoon is being considered. There may be some sponsorships for the Show & Sale available for \$25 at the April meeting.
- IT ISN'T TOO SOON TO START SAVING SHOW & SALE BOXES!

AND REMEMBER THAT CCCSS IS MEETING ON EASTER SUNDAY THIS YEAR!



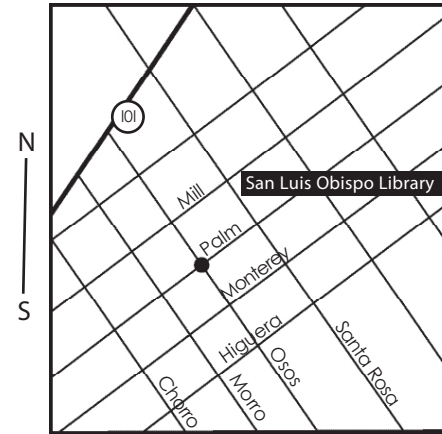
Hoodia species

NEXT meeting:

Sun, Apr. 8'th at
2:00 pm

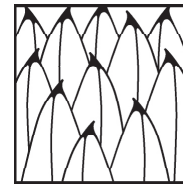
San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo



LAST YEAR'S TROPHY WINNERS

Please return your rotating plaque or trophy to Jan Moon for use in this year's show and sale. Thank you!



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 Carol Moss 438-4906	CSSA AFFILIATE Rob Skillin 473-0788	TREASURER Edie Price 489-8491
EDITOR Markus Mumper 773-1499	ASST. EDITOR Carrol Moss 438-4906	PUBLICITY Wayne Mills 481-3495	LIBRARIANS Jan Moon 927-1310 Maggie Wagner 773-1499	HOSPITALITY Pat Gilson 481-5596 Ann Byrne 934-0492

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.

Speakers of the Month

Rob, Gene, Charles & Markus

SHOW & SALE PLANT STAGING

We'll have an open discussion with CCCSS members regarding plant staging including grooming, potting, top dressing and 'props'.

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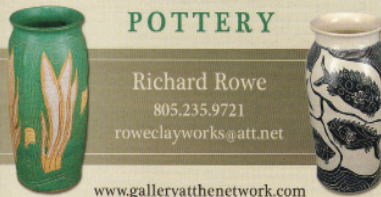


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Upcoming Events

April - 14

Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association Open House

Various growers throughout our County

Visit 'ccgga.wordpress.com'

May 5 - 6

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Sacramento Garden and Arts Center

3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA

May 5 - 6

Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Burton W. Chace County Park

13650 Mindinao Way, Marina del Rey, CA

May 6

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Mac Kenzie Park

State and De la Vina St., Santa Barbara, CA

May 12 - 13

San Diego Epiphyllum Society Annual Show & Sale

Balboa Park Botanical Gardens

Casa Del Prado, Rm. 101, Balboa Park, CA

T-Shirt Design Contest

Submit your design for our 2012 Society T-Shirt to

Nicole DeVecchio at our April meeting

The design needs to be a simple line drawing and no more than three colors

The winner will be selected in April / Shirts sold at the May meeting

Plant of the Month – *Stapeliads*

'*Stapeliad*' is a general term, derived from the genus *Stapelia*, describing the group of leafless, fleshy stemmed members of the *asclepiad* subfamily. The *asclepiads* were, until recently, a plant family referred to as the milkweed family, but now subsumed as a subfamily of the *oleander* family (*Pachypodium*, *Adenium*). In addition to the *stapeliads*, the *asclepiads* include succulent caudiciforms (eg. *Fockea*), vining succulents (e.g. *Ceropegia*, *Hoya*), and many non-succulent plants.

Stapeliads are defined by their unusual flowers: the stamens are fused in the upper region to form a basket around the carpels, forcing a pollinator to crawl through a small opening to reach the nectar and in the process dislodging one of the fused pollen sacs. The corolla, that portion of the flower that we think of as petals, are formed into two layers, one above the other. The lower layer usually forms a five pointed star; the upper layer forms a "donut" above it. The flowers are fleshy - they could almost be thought of as succulent flowers. They are frequently covered with hairs and are variously marked with lines, spots, and designs of various colors. Each species has a unique flower which until recently was the defining character of that species. Many of the flowers have a disagreeable odor of rotting flesh which attracts flies as their pollinators. They may range in size from a few millimeters, up to a foot across in *Stapelia gigantea*. The fruits consist of a pencil like sack (horn) containing hundreds of seeds which are wind-borne by filamentous parachutes as the pod splits open. The typical *stapeliad* forms branching clusters of succulent stems, generally less than an inch in diameter and rarely more than 6 inches long. The stems typically have 4 or 5 longitudinal ridges that are often marked with small teeth, the source of minute ephemeral leaves, but there are several exceptions (*Edithcolea*, *Hoodia*) as indicated below. A liberal view of the group would include the 'blob' plants, e.g. *Pseudolithos*, and sometimes even the vine forms, e.g. *Ceropegia* and *Hoya*, based on flower morphology and DNA analysis. Most *stapeliads* are found in southern Africa, the rest are distributed in East and North Africa, Arabia, and India. They occur in both winter and summer rainfall areas, and a few grow in the driest deserts of Namibia and the Sahara.

Culture. For most species culture is not difficult; they are relatively tender, need partial shade, and general treatment as for most succulents. They are not particularly hardy so should be protected from frost. Some are winter growers, some summer, so it is important to provide the correct dormancy period and watering schedule. In general those from the Western coast are winter growers, those from the Eastern coast receive summer rainfall. A few species are very difficult to maintain, including *Hoodia* which grows in the full desert sun of Namibia, and *Edithcolea* which is found in Kenya, Tanzania and Somalia. These latter species are excessively sensitive to humidity, overwatering, insufficient drainage and cold, and present a challenge to grow them to flowering stage. Some species are especially susceptible to rot; affected areas should be removed and wound treated with fungicide. In general *stapeliads* are not hardy and should be protected from frost.

Until recently there were only three recognized genera: *Stapelia*, *Carraluma* and *Huernia*, but recent revisions have split these into about 20-25 genera. Some of the more commonly encountered are:

***Stapelia*.** Mostly South African, stems often fuzzy. *S.gigantea* from the summer rainfall region of Eastern S.Africa has flowers about 1 foot across. Others from the winter rainfall western coast (*S.glanduliflora*, *S.flavopurpurea*) have smaller flowers and are also more difficult to cultivate

***Carraluma*.** Northern Africa, Sahara desert, Socotra, Somalia, Arabian peninsula. These desert forms are difficult to grow, succumbing easily to rot.

***Huernia*.** One of the easiest to grow and valued for the beauty and variety of its flowers which are formed in clusters near the base of the plant. Widely distributed in Eastern Africa, ranging North and East into Kenya, Somalia, and into Southwestern Arabia.

***Edithcolea*.** Native to some of the harshest of environments of Somalia, Kenya, and Tanzania. Stiff angular stems with some of the most remarkable flowers in the group, often referred to as 'Persian rug flowers'. Difficult to grow

***Hoodia*.** The larger spiny-stemmed species grow in extremely arid places, often completely in the open. Many grow in winter rainfall areas, and may even experience temperatures well below freezing. The flowers are more disc like than the typical star shape. Considered difficult to grow. *Hoodia* has recently received some fame as the source of a "magical" weight-loss compound.

***Quaqua*.** Winter growing South African species formerly listed as *carralumas*. Difficult to grow, they rot easily. Keep them dry in the summer and in bright light in winter

Pseudolithos*, *Whitsloaniana — 'blob plants'. The body of these plants is quite distinctive and not at all like the other members of the group. (In fact some authors do not even list them as *stapeliads*, although they produce *stapeliad* type flowers). They usually do not produce stems, but more closely resemble rocks, or lumps of clay, branching by producing subsidiary blobs. The tiny flowers are produced near the tops of the plants. Native to Somalia. Considered very difficult. ~Charles Spotts

Ref: Dotort, Succulent plants of the World
Court: Succulent Flora of Southern Africa
Rowley: The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents



Pseudolithos species

2012 CCCSS Show and Sale - Sponsored Awards

This year there will be 18 sponsored awards, listed below. Sponsorship costs \$25, and entitles the contributor to be listed in the Show Schedule. The contribution covers the cost of the award (a large rosette), plus, will help the club rent additional space in the front of the facility to reduce pressure in the sales area.

Contact Rob Skillin before April 20 if you wish to be a Sponsor. 709-3033 or rshkillin@gmail.com Sponsors who have already committed are shown below – thanks!

Help make this year's Show and Sale a success - sponsor an award!

AWARD	SPONSOR
Best Baja Native	Grow Nursery
Best Caudiciform	Kathy Matsuyama
Best Collection	Mary Harlow
Best Rookie Entry	Kathy Matsuyama
Best Staged Entry	Grow Nursery
Best Crested Entry	Pat Gilson
Best Euphorbia	Christy Keeling
Best Mesemb	
Best Chihuahuan Desert Cactus	Rob Skillin
Best Crassulaceae	
Best Gymnocalycium	
Best Mammillaria	Carol Moss
Best Agavaceae	Loring Manley
Best Echeveria	Wayne Mills
Best Haworthia	
Best Sansevieria	
Best Dish Garden	
Best Aloeaceae	Ken & Ann Byrne

Show and Sale Auction:

This year's sale will feature an auction of specimen plants on Sunday at 1:00. If you are interested in placing a plant in the auction, contact Nick Wilkinson.