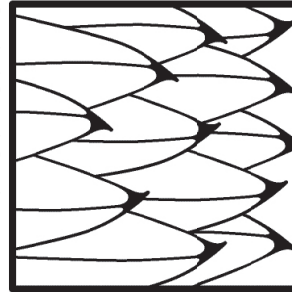


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Markus Mumper
780 Merced St.
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



On the Dry Side

August 2009

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CCCSS July Meeting Recap

Our July meeting was well attended and due to the success of our annual show/sale in May, we had many new guests attend. Our V.P. Nick Wilkinson just returned from The Huntington C & S show in Los Angeles and won "Best Caudiciform" and "Best Aloe".

Charles Spotts spoke of our plant of the month, which was *Uebelmannia*. There are 5 species in this genus which is native to Brazil. Their distinctive purple color in cultivation is missing in their native habitat due to the fog. They do not require extreme heat, like to be close to the ocean and will not tolerate frost.

Rob Skillin talked about our raffle plants that, once again, were full of some wonderful prizes. We had some nice boxed collections of *Copiapoa* and *Gymnocalycium*.

Our Speaker of the Month was Woody Minnich. Woody has been a Nurseryman since 1975. His nursery is in New Mexico; Along with his sense of humor he also bought some of his unusual plants for sale.

Woody's Bahia to Minas Gerais presentation was great and included some great pictures of the southeastern portions of Brazil. One of the native plants from Brazil he talked about was the genus *Melocactus*. These cacti can require up to 10 to 15 years of growing before flowering, then the plant stops growing and the unusual looking "top knot" called a cephalium starts to form. These are usually brightly colored with a structure of wool & bristle. One species of *Melocactus* is *M. giganteus* and it's cephalium can grow as tall as 14". There are also some columnar cacti that grow cephaliums like *Pilosocereus*. The flowers grow from the cephalium, which is pollinated by hummingbirds.

Just to name a few of some other plants you'll find in Brazil are Bromeliads, Orchids, *Bursera*, *Discocactus*, *Cissus*, certain species of *Euphorbia* and our plant of the month - *Uebelmannia*. Conservation efforts are emerging due to many of these plants becoming endangered. Once again, we always welcome Woody to the Central Coast to share his vast knowledge with us. He also has been our judge for our past three cactus & succulent show & sales. Thanks Woody and looking forward to your next trip here! ~Jan Moon

TRAVELOGUE THROUGH BAJA CALIFORNIA

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH:

Nick Wilkinson



CCCSS's Vice President Nick

Wilkinson has made several trips to Mexico's Baja California to study native plants. He has recorded an extensive travelogue of his own observations and those of various Baja botanical experts that have accompanied him. Nick will present his findings and conclusions to us at this month's meeting. Nick will also have plants for sale.

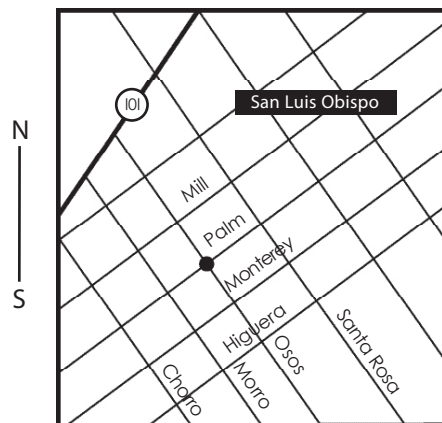


NEXT meeting:

Sun, Aug. 9th at
2:00 pm

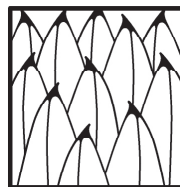
SLO Public Library

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805-781-5991



BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on August 9th 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 Mary Peracca 550-6977	VICE PRESIDENT Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	SECRETARY Eva Zayha 546-8202	CSSA AFFILIATE Rob Skillin 473-0788	TREASURER Edie Price 489-8491
EDITOR Markus Mumper 773-1499	ASST. EDITOR Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	PUBLICITY Joan Field 773-6644	LIBRARIANS Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanyasz 544-5389	HOSPITALITY Maggie Wagner, 773-1499 Pat Gilson, 481-5596

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 continue this service.



Upcoming Events

August 15-16

Intercity Show & Sale

Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 626-798-2430

September 5 (CORRECTED)

Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium

Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino 626-405-2160

September 6

CSSA Board Meeting

Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino 626-405-2160

September 19-20

Monterey Bary Area Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Jardins de San Juan
115 Third St., San Juan Bautista 831-722-1446

September 27

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction

Dominguez Rancho Adobe
18127 South Alameda St., Compton 562-419-9646

November 7-8

San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia 626-798-2430

December 4-6

Orange County Show & Sale

Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 949-548-0587

hospitality news:

Thanks to all the members who brought food, treats and drink to last month's meeting - Lucile Manrique, Joann Spots and Terry Skillin - It is always appreciated.

This month Nancy Leslie, Maude Leslie and Markus Mumper will host.

If your interested in providing a snack for future meetings please sign up at the front desk or contact Pat Gilson, 481-5596.

Great 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

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**The
Clayworks**

Fouquieriaceae

Fouquieria Engelm.

The genus *Fouquieria* (foo-KWEER-ree-uh) consists of about 11 species with the most collectable members being: *F. splendens* (Ocotillo) the most northern, *F. columnaris* (Boojum) of Baja California perhaps the most unusual, and *F. purpusii* the most southern growers. These plants exist mostly in the American Sonoran Desert as well as northwestern Mexico and Baja California. As the family name suggests, *Fouquieria* is the sole genus therein and is named after the late Pierre Fouquier (1776-1850), French physician and naturalist.

These plants are usually large shrubs to 20 feet or so with spiny stems but the extreme and strangest species for the genus, *F. columnaris*, can grow a trunk sixty or seventy mellifluous feet tall with relatively miniscule side stems. The stems and trunks contain chlorophyll and can photosynthesize without leaves. Leaves do appear but only after rain and they wither when the soil dries, a cycle that can be repeated several times during the growing season. Depending on whom you read most *Fouquieria* are not considered true succulents but xerophytic plants instead. Even so, many collectors keep at least a few of them.

Cultivation varies with *F. splendens* and *F. columnaris* being able to enjoy wet winter conditions and some frost while *F. purpusii*, being a Summer grower, should be kept on the dryer and warmer side, especially if frost is predicted. Since *Fouquieria* contains both summer and winter growers the collector must do a little research and gain cultivation experience before becoming comfortable with the species. Full sun is the general rule along with some light feeding during the growing months. And the old mantra stands consistent, they should be grown in free draining soil and allowed to dry out between waterings or poor growth/death will result. Some literature states that alkali soils may be beneficial to some species, but in lieu of creating specific soil mixes for specific plants, a generic planting mix should probably be tried first for results.

In the wild *Fouquieria*' do not seem to be picky about reproduction - bees and other daytime flying insects, along with hummingbirds, pollinate the plants. By design grazing animals, wether wild or domestic, are not a threat since the thorns are sharp and their leaves are transient.

There seem to be few domestic uses for these plants other than beauty. Native peoples reportedly use(d) various parts and concoctions of the plants to treat wounds, fatigue or other symptoms. The ocotillo was also used as a "living fence"; hedges or fences of living stems were common in Arizona and Mexico and can still be seen today. And some small towns in Arizona and Mexico have older structures where the ocotillo was used as the lathe in "lathe and plaster" wall construction.

For the hobbyist *Fouquieria*' are great collector plants, and along with some of the similar looking *Aluaudia*' from Madagascar, can be grown as small bonsai plants all the way to outdoor landscape masterpieces. Some cultivation knowledge and care is required but successful results are splendid.

Have fun.....



Fouquieria splendens



Fouquieria columnaris (the plant pictured on the left was advertised for sale on the internet for \$300, not a good deal at all!)



Fouquieria species used for fence pickets and shade structure



Method of pollination