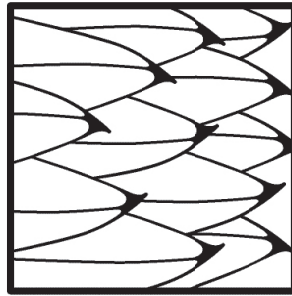


# On the Dry Side

August, 2011



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

## Inside this issue: CCCSS July Meeting Recap

- Upcoming Speaker  
- Hope Merkle
- Genus of the Month  
- *Aeonium*

Thanks to all that attended our July meeting. We always welcome new faces.

And thanks Charles for a very informative presentation on our plant of the month: California Succulent Natives. Our county is full of beautiful *Dudleya*. Remember, *Dudleya* are winter growers and summer dormant, so don't over water in the summer.

There are only three native California Agave. Anza Borrego State Park is home of *Agave deserti*. The other two are *Agave utahensis* down south by the Nevada border and *Agave shawii* that is from Baja but lapses into Southern California. Of course other California native succulents include *Yucca*, *Fouquieria* with it's bright red flowers, and *Nolina*.

Our presenter this month was Tom Knapik from the San Diego area. Tom is heavily involved with the San Diego C&S Society. His program: Geometric Geophytes. These are mini plants that grow low to the ground or even underground.

Tom says some of the most interesting plants are the small ones. After looking at his photos, I'm sure we all agree. These miniature plants are hard to find as they camouflage with surrounding rock. In extreme drought these plants "pull down" and shrink, only to fatten up with rain. In severe droughts some plants may stay underground for years. His program took us to many different locations.

In Arizona there is the endangered *Pediocactus peeblesianus* var. *peeblesianus*.

In Texas *Epithelantha bokei* and *Ariocarpus fissuratus* grow flat to the ground. The local Peyote, *Lophophora williamsii*, can be legally harvested by Indians and is used for religious ceremonies.

In Chile *Copiapoa* is plentiful. The smallest *Copiapoa* is *C. lauii*. The yellow flowers it bears are as big of the plant.

From Bolivia, the rare cactus *Cintia knizei* and is an awesome looking miniature about the size of a nickel. The rare, slow growing *Strombocactus disciformis* from Mexico grow on rocky limestone slopes and their seeds are like fine dust that scatters and gets caught in mud to germinate. The smallest cactus species in the world is from Bolivia, *Blossfeldia liliputana*, the mature size of these plants is less than a half-inch diameter.

Tom gave us a very interesting presentation on the "minis" and ended with an interesting video incorporating his Math expertise. Thank you Tom and see everyone in August. ~Jan Moon

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AUGUST'S PROGRAM \_\_\_\_\_

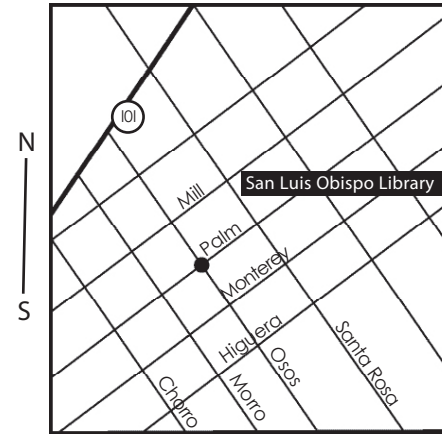
Speaker of the Month \_\_\_\_\_

## Hope Merkle Succulent Wreaths

Hope Merkle of Los Osos Valley Nursery will show us how to create and care for succulent wreaths. Come join us for a hands-on presentation.



## NEXT meeting:



Sun, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:00 pm

San Luis Obispo  
Public Library

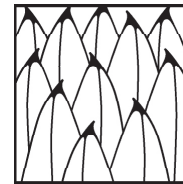
995 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo

### NEWS FROM THE MAY BOARD MEETING:

- Maggie Wagner and Jan Moon will take over Library duties. Jeanne & Martin will help in the transition. **Thank You Jeanne & Martin** for all the years of your dedication to the library duties.
- Exoticbooks.com has offered that any purchase made with them by a CCCSS member, they will donate 10% to our club.
- The CCCSS will get a re-sale permit so that we can have our own control of re-sale taxes for our club. People who propagate their own plants can sell at our show, so this will open us up for other vendors.

### BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on August 14 right after our General Meeting. As always all members are welcome.



Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society

e-mail: [markusmumper@gmail.com](mailto:markusmumper@gmail.com)

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

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Gene Schroeder 929-2161	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	<b>SECRETARY</b> Jan Moon 927-1310	<b>CSSA AFFILIATE</b> Rob Skillin 473-0788	<b>TREASURER</b> Edie Price 489-8491
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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.



*Aeonium arboreum* 'Zwartkop'



*Aeonium* inflorescence

## Upcoming Events

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**August 13 - 14**

**26th Annual Intercity Show & Sale**

Los Angeles County Arboretum: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

**September 3**

**Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium**

Huntington Botanical Gardens: 8:30am - 5:00pm  
1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA

**September 17 - 18**

**Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**

Jardines de San Juan: 9:00am - 5:00pm, 9:00am - 3:30pm  
115 Third St., San Juan Bautista, CA

**September 25**

**Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction**

Friends of Rancho San Pedro: 12:00pm start  
18127 South Alameda St., Rancho Dominguez, CA

**November 5 - 6**

**San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**

Los Angeles County Arboretum: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

**November 11 - 12**

**Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Winter Show & Sale**

Anaheim United Methodist Church: 12:00pm - 7:00pm, 9:00am - 5:00pm  
1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA

## Hospitality News

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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 & Ann

# Aeonium

Charles Spotts

*Aeonium*. A European rosulate member of the *Crassulaceae*

*Crassulaceae* — the *Crassula* family including *Echeveria*, *Dudleya*, *Sedum*, *Kalanchoe*, *Tylecodon*, etc.

Rosulate — leaves arising in a rosette at the ends of the stems. *Dudleya* is an American rosulate crassula

Most *Aeoniums* come originally from the Canary Islands off the coast of Spain in the Atlantic Ocean, with a few oddball species from several isolated parts of Central Africa. The climate of the Canary Islands is fairly Mediterranean so these plants are perfectly adapted to many similar climates around the globe. Most are moderately drought tolerant (though less so than most might guess), mildly frost tolerant (some more than others), but only moderately heat tolerant, and dependent on bright light to full sun. These are generalizations and there is certainly some variation in their water, heat and lighting needs.

Most *Aeoniums* are winter growers looking their best when temps are moderate and water plentiful. As summer approaches many will curl their leaves in and go into a form of dormancy, though in cultivation, given some shade and water, most will continue to grow actively, though perhaps less vigorously. Hot summer sun will damage *Aeonium* leaves and some will curl up as a protective response. These are not cold hardy plants and freezes will damage most species.

Most *Aeoniums* are monocarpic, meaning they die after flowering. For unbranching species this means the death of the entire plant and offspring are only created by germination of seeds. Some flowers are spectacular terminal events while other species have relatively insignificant flowers.

*Aeoniums* are ideal pot plants needing very little other than soil for support and water. Rarely does one need to fertilize these plants. If growing *Aeoniums* along the coast, the humidity and rains/mists will often mean they never need to be watered, but in dry climates they will probably need to be watered frequently or put on drip irrigation. They do not need to be thoroughly watered, though, as the main water-absorbing roots are near the surface with the deeper roots functioning nearly solely as support. Pot life also means one can move the plants in and out of good and bad weather situations. As mentioned already, these plants do not like heat, and high temps will often cause root death, and then plant death. So during high heat times of year, they may need to be moved indoors in a window (indoors in low light is also very difficult for these plants and most will quickly weaken and colors will fade). Generally *Aeoniums* perform better in standard potting soils rather than super well draining and nutrient deficient cactus soils. Remember these plants do not like to dry out.

Some commonly encountered *Aeoniums*:

*Aeonium arboreum* is one of the more commonly available species, though most plants in cultivation are hybrids of this species. This is a bright green plant with a branching stem and is the 'classic' *Aeonium* with the moderate sized rosettes and somewhat thin, spoon-shaped leaves. It is a very easy plant to grow and cuttings can be rooted simply by taking a stem and shoving it in the ground. As plants get taller (will grow up to 6' tall or more, but usually collapse after that) and more leggy, limbs will often start falling off from weight of the rosettes. These can be replanted in the garden or in pots but some of the stems should be cut off. This species is relatively heat and cold sensitive with the thin leaves curling in heat or melting in frost. But generally the plants recover quickly.

*Aeonium arboreum* 'Atropurpureum' is the same plant but with purplish leaves that fade to green in shade but darken to maroon-purple in sun. This hybrid is probably the most common *Aeonium* for cultivation here in California.

*Aeonium arboreum* 'Zwartkop' is one of the most ornamental of all the *Aeoniums* having nearly black leaves in full, hot sun, though these fade to purple in winter or shade. *Aeonium* 'Garnet' is a bright red plant that is a hybrid of the *Zwartkop* plant and *Aeonium tabuliforme* that is a nice, low growing, offsetting plant with big round leaves and fantastic color in full sun.

*Aeonium davidbramwellii* is somewhat common in cultivation, but the hybrid 'Sunburst' is by far more common and sold just about anywhere *Aeoniums* can be purchased. This is one of the most variable species and even on its native island of La Palma in the Atlantic this plant can look very different in different situations. Some plants are single stemmed and quite large, while others have numerous branches with much smaller rosettes. It has relatively thick somewhat rough-surfaced leaves generally with red or pink along the margins, which also are serrated with miniscule teeth. The hybrid *Sunburst* is quite distinct and a highly ornamental plant. It is nearly always a branching plant with rosettes up to 1' in diameter and various amounts of yellow, white and pale green stripes, often tipped with red or pink along the margins or fading to that at the ends of the older leaves. These plants are fairly easy to grow and more cold hardy than *Aeonium arboreum*.

*Aeonium haworthii* is probably the most hardy and easy to grow, as well as one of the two most common species in cultivation. It has thick, short, rough-surfaced leaves that are not flexible at all (without breaking) that form rosettes about 3" in diameter, and grows in thick, dense clumps supported on a multibranched network of thin, woody, rough-surfaced stems. This plant often has lots of aerial roots drifting down from its stems. Cuttings grow easily and quickly after being stuffed in the ground- this plant grows so well it could even be classified as invasive.

*Aeonium haworthii* 'Kiwi' (also called 'Tricolor') is another very commonly sold plant and another one quite easy to grow. *Aeonium* 'Kiwi' has yellow green and pink leaves that form durable rosettes up to 4" in diameter, somewhat larger than the rosettes of *Aeonium haworthii*. The yellow (variegation) is only on the newly forming leaves at the center of the rosettes, and older leaves are all green with a red-pink margin. It is a striking and excellent garden or potted plant.

*Aeonium sedifolium* is unlike any other *Aeonium* having very small rosettes of 1" or less, densely packed on short, branched shrubs only about 6" or more high.

*Aeonium spathulatum* is another somewhat rare species in cultivation with spoon-shaped small leaves that curl up in summers. It forms a low shrub on skinny branching stems with peeling bark.



*Aeonium tabuliforme*



*Aeonium haworthia* 'Kiwi'