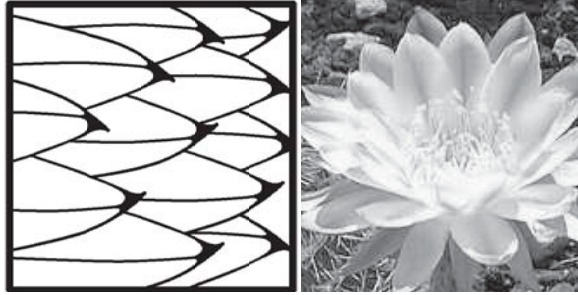


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Nick Wilkinson, Editor
1719 14th Street
Los Osos, CA 93402



On the Dry Side

AUGUST 2008

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Lithops

July Meeting Recap

CCCSS July Meeting Recap

We welcomed numerous newcomers to July's meeting! The plant of the month, Aloes, was presented by Nick Wilkinson. Their native habitats include Africa and Madagascar. Aloe forms range from grasses to trees. There are hundreds of species. Perhaps the most well known is the medicinal Aloe vera. Aloes are excellent landscape plants and tolerant of many different soils. Our speaker of the month was Rob Skillin. He gave an awesome presentation and slide show about his travels in Namibia where he explored succulents in their native habitats. Namibia is in southwestern Africa, south of the equator, bordered from South Africa by the Orange River. Windhoek is Namibia's capital city in what is known as one of the most sparsely populated countries of the world. The dry Winter months of June to October are followed by light rain that subsides in April and May. Summertime has lots of fog, but no rain. Mr. Skillin treated us to his outstanding slides of wildlife, native Himba villagers, and succulents such as Conophyllum, Lithops, Cheirodopsis, Pelargonium, Stapeliads, Aloe, Adenia, Euphorbia, and various Crassulaceae, to name just a few. For those of us who haven't traveled to Southwestern Africa, Mr. Skillin's presentation was the next best thing to being there.

Eva Zayha



Fritz Light

Plant Pests & Control

Fritz Light, a Cal Poly SLO graduate student, will give a presentation on plant pests and diseases, their identification and control. Fritz will comment on biological and chemical management of pests and diseases specific to the growing of cactus and other succulents. If you're having difficulty identifying a current problem with your plants bring a specimen for Fritz to review.

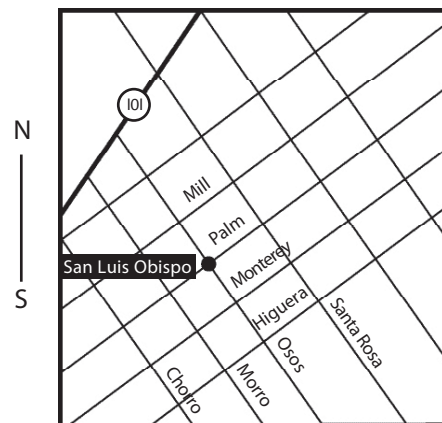
Nor Cal July C & S Show & Sale

Roving CCCSS members spotted our own Nick Wilkinson of Grow, the Nursery at Moonstone Gardens, at the the Northern California Cactus & Succulent Society's July Show and Sale as both an expert entrant in the show as well as a vendor.

Of the eighteen plants Nick presented he received eight first, five second and three third place awards. Among his first place plants was the same *Operculicarya decaryi* that he showed at our own show.

Alright Nick!

NEXT meeting



Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 2pm.

Sun Aug. 10, 2pm

SLO Public Library
(large room)

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo
805-781-5991

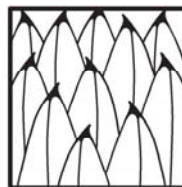
next.....

BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on Aug. 10th right after our General Meeting. As always, members are welcome.

Upcoming Speakers:

September - Charles Spotts: People, Plants and Places of Oaxaca, Mexico
October - Tom Glavich: Tiny Plants of South Africa



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 Charles Spotts 237-2054	SECRETARY Eva Zahya 546-8202	CCSS AFFILIATE Rob Skillin 473-0788	TREASURER Edie Price 489-8491
EDITORS Nick & Kara Wilkinson 528-8880	ASST. EDITOR Markus Mumper 773-1499	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 shipped out to those who sign in at the monthly meetings. After this, dues must be paid in order to continue this service. This will help keep our club costs down.

haute cactus couture [shame about the plants though]



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15% off for all CCCSS members
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Upcoming Events

- AUG 16-17 23rd Annual Intercity Show and Sale
Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA
- AUG 30 Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium
1151 Oxford San Marino, CA
- SEP 20-21 Monterey Bary Area C & S Society Show and Sale
115 Third St. (Jardins de San Juan), San Juan Bautista, CA
- SEP 28 Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction
18127 South Alameda St., Rancho Dominguez, CA
- OCT 4-5 C & S society of San Jose Show & Sale
1111 Bellomy St., Santa Clara, CA

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hospitality news 

A big thanks to those who provided July's scrumptious refreshments!

For August's meeting Carol Mortensen and Bruce Mindt will provide savory treats and Tracy Paz will provide sweets.

If your interested in providing a snack for the meeting please contact Maggie Wagner, 773-1499 or Pat Gilson, 481-5596.

CCCSS Library

CCCSS now has a library of books that can be checked out by CCCSS members. You will find the most updated list of books available for check out at each meeting. Please contact librarians Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanzsz, 544-5389, for more information and availability.

* Any book lost or damaged will require a replacement fee.

Lithops N. E. Br.



It's that time of year again, the Lithops have started to wake up. It never ceases to amaze most succulent lovers when, after months of inactivity, new leaves quietly emerge from the old, which shrink away, and then triumphantly send up a bud with a long lasting white or yellow flower.

Lithops hail from the drier areas of South Africa that generally receive most rainfall during the Spring through Fall months, although this is not an absolute rule. The term "rainfall" may be generous - some climates indigenous to Lithops may get zero or only a few inches in a given year but the plants survive.

Lithops are characterized by fused leaf pairs often referred to as bodies. Through division, these bodies can form clumps over many years. For those not familiar, Lithop bodies have a relatively narrow base which expands toward flattened, somewhat translucent tips.

In nature: All that is visible are the tips with the rest of the plant underground. In cultivation: They have a much softer life in both sun exposure and water, they thus can rise above the soil surface by an inch or more giving a glimpse of the opaque body.



Phylum: Angiospermae

Class: Dicotyledonae

Order: Caryophylladae

Family: Mesembryanthemaceae



Lithops have a hellish reputation amongst some growers but most are not really that hard to grow given a few simple rules:

1. Provide the amount of light typical for most succulents.
2. Provide a COMPLETELY free draining potting mix using ample pumace or perlite.
3. Let dry completely between waterings and feed only during visible growth periods with a very light fertilizer concentration.
4. For most species water sparingly only during Spring, Summer and Fall; Never water during Winter.

They should reliably flower year after year given this treatment.

There are hundreds (guessing?) of species of Lithops, from verdent green to fiery red, and dull patterns to precise draftsmanship. If you get the Lithops hook it's hard to shake.

Book Recommendation
Lithops, Treasure of the Veld
Steven Hammer