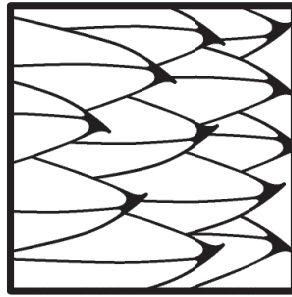


Central Coast Cactus  
& Succulent Society  
c/o Markus Mumper  
780 Merced St.  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



# On the Dry Side

December, 2011

## CCCSS November Meeting Recap

There was a good turnout for the November meeting, during which we discussed the **December pot-luck dinner**; sign-up sheets were available. In place of the usual meeting format, a festive meal is planned, with turkey and ham provided by the club and members bringing the rest of the fixin's. There will be two auctions, one live and one silent. **Members are encouraged to enter their show-quality plants in the live auction** – the plant's owner will get 75 percent of the proceeds, with the remaining 25 percent going to the club. Items in the silent auction are donated (and a tax deduction) and can include anything plant-related, including books, pots and artwork. **Volunteers are needed on Sunday, December 11, at 1:30 p.m. to help set up for the party and also clean up afterward.**

Old Business: The positions of newsletter editor and secretary still need to be filled and other board positions will become available as our current officers look forward to retiring someday. We are still looking for ideas and volunteers (especially volunteers!) for our prospective community outreach projects. Suggested projects include developing a speaker program and creating a public display. Looking ahead: this year we will be able to set up for our annual show on Friday night; please let **Pat Gilson** know if you can help before 5 p.m. on May 25.

**Charles Spotts** educated us about the Plant of the Month – Ariocarpus, and members provided outstanding examples of these cacti. Charles' article in last month's newsletter is very comprehensive, and he and **Rob Skillen** (who has been growing them for 30 years and is an expert on Ariocarpus) added that the plant should not be allowed to get too tall in cultivation. In habitat they are very flat to the ground. Rob noted that Ariocarpus seem to do better in SLO than when he grew them in Bakersfield, probably because our hot days are followed by cool nights, a climate preferred by most cacti. Rob says Ariocarpus respond well to more root room and grow faster in a larger pot, but repotting can disturb their roots and can set back their growth a few years. They like water in summer when they are growing, but should not be watered between now and May. A website [locate by entering living rocks in browser] covers Ariocarpus and is recommended for further reading.

November's speaker, **Gregg DeChirico**, gave an entertaining travelogue/slide show of a recent expedition to Peru. Rather than presenting a technical lecture, Gregg described his presentation as a "plant geek's version of What I Did on Summer Vacation." Gregg recently became enamored with Tillandsia and found and photographed many of these epiphytes in his travels around Peru, as well as multitudes of flora and fauna of the region. He admitted that his previous dismissive attitude toward peperomia was changed by the amazing varieties he came across on his trip. He relayed the interesting fact that the residents of each town in Peru wear hats with a distinctive style that distinguishes them from the residents of other towns. Gregg recommended a book by Wade Davis – One River – describing the ethnobotany, past and present, of the Peruvian tributaries of the Amazon River.

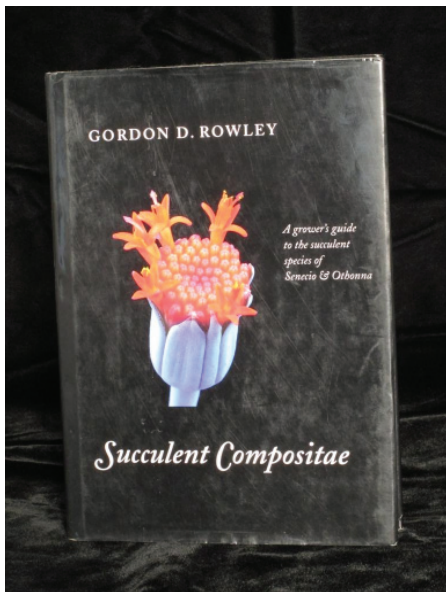
~Carol Moss

# Some Christmas Auction Plants & Books:

Here's a smattering of some plants and books that will be available during the Christmas Pot-Luck and Auction this Sunday, December 11th. Come prepared to bid on some unusual and rare specimens.



*Ficus Palmeri*



Succulent Compositae



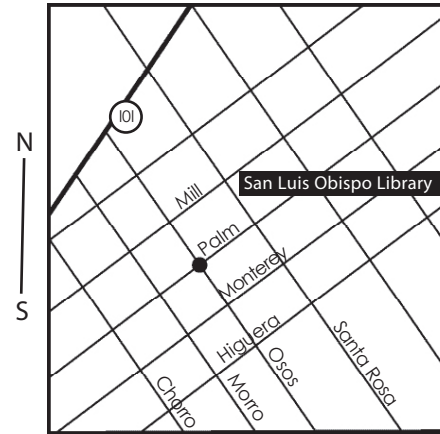
*Yucca endlichiana*

# Christmas Pot-Luck:

Sun, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:00 pm

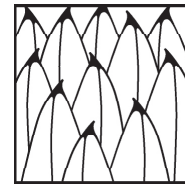
San Luis Obispo  
Public Library

995 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo



## NEWS FROM THE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING:

- Gene updated the board on tax reporting; an error (by others) has resulted in a delay but we are not late or out of compliance.
- Community outreach was discussed with an emphasis on the need for dedicated volunteers to run whatever we decide to do – speakers? demonstrations? CSSA slide program?
- It was suggested that a series of bios of prominent members be included in the newsletter.
- The board authorized Pat and Edie to investigate a scanning program for printing labels on the items being sold at the annual May show. Labels would include the vendor's name and the price, and would not only save time at checkout, but would provide an accurate accounting for each vendor and would eliminate the opportunity to switch price tags. The results will be reported to the show committee for action.
- Final details for the holiday meeting were reviewed. Nick Wilkinson's arm will be twisted to encourage him to emcee the live auction.



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><br>Gene Schroeder<br>929-2161 | <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b><br>Nick Wilkinson<br>528-8880 | <b>SECRETARY</b><br>Carol Moss              | <b>CSSA AFFILIATE</b><br>Rob Skillin<br>473-0788                       | <b>TREASURER</b><br>Edie Price<br>489-8491                      |
| <b>EDITOR</b><br>Markus Mumper<br>773-1499     | <b>ASST. EDITOR</b><br>Nick Wilkinson<br>528-8880   | <b>PUBLICITY</b><br>Wayne Mills<br>481-3495 | <b>LIBRARIANS</b><br>Jan Moon<br>927-1310<br>Maggie Wagner<br>773-1499 | <b>HOSPITALITY</b><br>Pat Gilson 481-5596<br>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.