

On the Dry Side

DECEMBER 2012

CCCSS November Meeting Recap

11/11/2012

Our president was out of the country, so **Mary Peracca** opened the meeting by welcoming visitors and awarding them a free plant along with a plant for the members who provided our treats. Plans for our upcoming December holiday feast were discussed. A sign-up sheet for the food and drinks was available; if you missed signing up, please contact **Pat Gilson**. Pat would like to know how many people intend to come to the December feast, so please let her know, preferably by telephone, if you did not indicate how many when you signed up or if you were not at the last meeting. The club will provide roast turkey and ham, along with plates, utensils, etc. **Rob Skillin** discussed auction items for the December meeting. Anyone wishing to donate a plant for the live auction must clear it with Rob *prior to the day of the meeting*. The donating member will split the proceeds with the club (75 percent to the donor, 25 percent to the club). The silent auction items are a 100 percent donation to the club and can be anything that directly relates to our purpose and mission. **Jim Harlow** updated us on the Lotusland trip scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 2013. The cost for members is \$25, with the club subsidizing the remaining costs. (Note that the entry fee to Lotusland is \$25. The Executive Board set the price for guests at \$55. *Hint: have your guest join the club to save some money.*) Besides the bus itself, the club will provide snacks and raffle plants going and coming from Santa Barbara/ Lotusland/ the wholesale nursery. There are two pick-up locations, Madonna Plaza at 7:00 a.m. and Pismo Outlets at 7:30 a.m. Return to SLO County will be approximately 6:30 p.m. To reserve a place, send your check to Jim Harlow. The trip is expected to sell out, so reservations are first come—first served. Other announcements included the club library being “closed” for the December meeting. Please return any books that are due at the January meeting.

Gene Schroeder presented the Plant-of-the-Month portion of the meeting, which was about the aloes of Madagascar. This species has around 400 plants and most of the miniature aloes are found only in Madagascar. These miniature aloes are great for pot culture and are prolific bloomers from October to the end of March. There are many hybrids as they cross-breed promiscuously, as Gene put it. Their native habitat is high, dry and warm. Aloes close in summer – when the leaves begin to turn yellow they are going dormant. (As always, please see last month's *On the Dry Side* for more information.) Rob presented the plants on the Brag Table and several plants and/or photographs were brought in to be identified.

Vice-President **Markus Mumper** presented our featured speaker, **Cody Coyote Howard** (his real name), who is a Conservationist Technician at The Huntington Gardens. He presented a photographic tour of his recent trip to Namibia in northeastern Africa where he was mapping, surveying and legally collecting specimens of the genus *Ledebouria*, of which there are 54 accepted species. These are easy-to-grow, summer-growing plants and Cody grows his in pure pumice. He mentioned XericGrowers as a good site for more information (a website). Namibia is very tourist-friendly and he encouraged everyone to visit. He returned to Namibia a few days after visiting us to continue his work – describing new species.

~ Submitted by *Carol Moss, Secretary*
Merry Schlumberger!

Our librarian, **Gene Schroeder**, sent this image of his aloes. He has different “galleries” that are interesting to peruse at your leisure. His photographs are available on the link: <http://dimages.smugmug.com/>



WEBSITES

http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/browse_imgs/plant.html --Educational site that posts pictures by scientific name. (e.g. - If you have an aloe, but you do not know the complete name, you may find it here!)

www.sacredsucculents.com --This is a mail-order nursery near the coast. It also has ethnobotanical information. They offer seeds and plants of items not available elsewhere.

<http://www.huntington.org/huntingtonlibrary.aspx?id=210&linkidentifier=id&itemid=210> -- The Huntington Gardens website. Virtual tours, announcements of lectures and sales, exotic succulent hybrids.

NEW <http://www.nestegggardens.com/Home.htm> -- Wonderful website with ideas on lanscape, dish gardens and “wreaths”, etcetera.

LOST AND FOUND

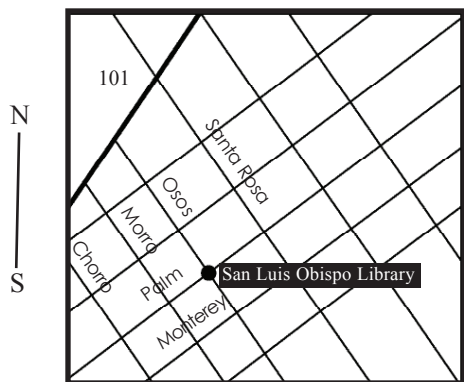
--If anyone found a maroon/reddish jacket after the October meeting, please bring it to the Party or call Terry-5284478. One of our members, Pat Miller, would love to get it back.

--If anyone found the cake plate and cover that was outside the meeting hall after the November meeting please return it to Wayne Mills at the December meeting.



NEXT MEETING:

Sun. Dec 9 at
2:00 pm



San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

Please be aware that the City of San Luis Obispo is charging for parking on Sunday afternoon, 1pm.

The parking structure gives the first hour free and has 2 elevators. Or, you can park on the street and feed the meters! (There are also a few government lots that can be used for free at your own risk!)

****Local lecture of interest****

Island and San Luis Obispo Dudleyas: Native Succulent Liveforevers

Organization: San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens

When: Saturday, December 8, 2012

Time: 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Where: The Glen Oak Pavillion

Contact: 805-541-1400 X304 education@slobg.org

info: Stephen McCabe, Director of Development and Research and Curator of Succulents at the UCSC Arboretum, will show photos of adventure botany, ecology, and plant identification of native succulents from wild and remote islands and from urban to natural areas of San Luis Obispo County. McCabe has been to all of California's Channel Islands, Guadalupe Island, and many of the *Dudleya* habitats in San Luis Obispo County. Some of the worst weather was in Cayucos and among the most remote places were Guadalupe, Zapato, and Prince Islands. He will also mention the roles that botanic gardens can play in conserving dozens of rare and endangered liveforevers and other species of plants. The talk will be geared for both the serious botanist and novice gardener in largely non-technical terms. Plants will also be available for purchase after the talk.

Stephen McCabe is the Director of Development and Research and Curator of Succulents at the University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum. He has been at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum since 1985. He has just written a revised key with descriptions for the *Dudleya* of California. The key appears in the second edition of The Jepson Manual. He has written for the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* on *Dudleya*, a succulent member of the *Protea* family, and on the pollination of *Aloe polyphylla*. He is also very fond of *Echeveria* hybrids.

Extra info: The program is followed by a free docent-led walk through the garden at 2:00 PM. The cost of the program is \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. Members of CCCSS will be admitted for \$5.00 with club ID (bring newsletter if no ID badge).

CCCSS HOLIDAY PARTY

(DECEMBER 9 AT 2PM)



It is time for our annual Holiday Feast! The club will supply the turkey and ham . . . club members will supply the side dishes. If anyone has forgotten what they were bringing to the pot-luck or needs to sign up for a dish, please call Pat Gilson at 805-481-5596. It is a "family affair", so if you haven't signed up for the dinner or family members call Pat ASAP! As before, we will have plant auctions where you can get great plants and cactus related items. See the box on "auctions" for more information.

We will need help for the set-up and clean-up; set-up starts at 1:30.

DECEMBER AUCTIONS: LIVE AND SILENT

As we have done in the past, we will be having two auctions at our December potluck, and we are looking for donations to each. *Donations to the silent auction are 100% donations to the club*, and this has been a great way for us to raise funds in the past. Please bring anything that relates to our hobby – plants, pots, top dressing, whatever seems right. The bidding forms will be provided – you just need to set a starting bid amount, and the bid increment.

For the live auction, we need about 15 nice show quality plants. If your submittal is accepted for the auction, you will receive 75% of the winning bid, and 25% will go to the club. If you have something you would like to be considered, contact Rob at 709-3033, rskillin@gmail.com. Please enclose picture(s) of the plant.

Do you have a succulent that you have no idea what it is or how to take care of it? Bring it to a meeting for our

****PLEASE IDENTIFY ME****
section of the program.

No "brag" plants, "POM" or "PIM" plants in December (party)

Christmas Cacti

Schlumbergera species

Schlumbergera is a branching cascading epiphyte with flattened joints. They are native to southeast Brazil where they flourish in the coastal forests and jungles at an altitude of 100-1500 m. In its native environment, it is an epiphyte (occasionally lithophytic). They grow their roots into the bark of their host tree. Their only access to moisture and nutrients is from rain and droppings that fall from above. They also always grow under a canopy of trees and are never exposed to the full sun. The environment that these cacti have adapted to is that of the warm, humid jungle with sunlight filtered through the canopy of the forest.

The plant was first introduced as a cultivar in the 1800's. Most of our modern day specimens are a cross between *S. truncata* and *S. russelliana*; this cross has been given the name *Schlumbergera bridgesii*. It has a blooming period from November through February. Flowering is triggered by short days and cool temperatures. It requires ample summer water and partial shade, but allow soil to dry slightly between waterings; The Christmas cactus is a short day bloomer. The shortening days of September and October are what trigger the flowering cycle. Also, allow temperatures at night to drop slightly to induce flowering. During the flowering cycle, keep your Christmas cactus moist (but not soggy). After the blossoms have fallen off you should back off on the water for a couple of months. These forest cacti tend to be long lived and, since they are epiphytes, they are happy in the root-bound condition and can stay in the same pot for years!

If your plant does need repotting, do it after the blooms have fallen off. Christmas cacti do not want a normal cactus soil but prefer to be in a soil containing sphagnum. This type of soil would normally be used for orchids, bromeliads or other epiphytic plants. The *Schlumbergera* drop their buds easily if they are moved. Once flower buds have formed, DO NOT MOVE the plant, as slight changes in environment may cause the buds to drop. *Schlumbergera truncata* bloom is primarily red, pink or purple. Many of the more varied bloom colors have been created through hybridization by the plant industry where the old, incorrect term *Zygocactus* is used for the plants. The hybrids tend to be more upright and have a large variety of color blooms to choose from. If you want to know more, there is a very good article at:

<http://plantsarethe strangestpeople.blogspot.com/2010/08/tease-schlumbergera-truncata-cvv.html>



Two 25+ year old plants under my tree canopy.



CLUB TRIP TO LOTUSLAND

<http://www.lotusland.org/>

Our club is sponsoring a bustrip to Lotusland on February 16, 2013. The fee is \$25 for club members (this is the group cost for entrance to Lotusland, the club is furnishing the bus, raffle plants, and snacks). Non-member price is \$55 with members given priority. At this time, there are 12 seats available (34 of 46 are reserved).

Send a **check** (made out to "CCCSS") to Jim Harlow, 3575 Cloudy Meadow Rd., Templeton 93465. Phone number 550-6660. Indicate whether you prefer Madonna Plaza or Pismo Beach Outlet Center pickup. Jim will keep a waiting list in case of vacancies. No refunds.

PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

7am- Pickup at Madonna Plaza (near Big 5)

7:20am- Pickup at Pismo Outlet Center ("ride on lot")

First stop- San Marcos Growers wholesalers for an opportunity to see and buy wonderful plants.

--Lunch (to be decided).

1:30pm- Lotusland tour of cactus and succulent gardens.

CSAA CORNER - DECEMBER

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America is working hard on the 35th Biennial CSSA Convention which will occur in Austin, Texas from June 15 through 20, 2013. They have a world class group of speakers scheduled and attendees will be able to buy plants from the leading growers of Cacti and Succulents in North America. Club members should be planning a trip to Austin to join them for this terrific event. Our affiliate members can access current information and the registration form (from about Dec 10) at <http://cssa2013.com>

Upcoming Events

December 8

"Island and San Luis Obispo *Dudleyas*: Native Succulent Liveforevers" 1pm at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens. See detailed announcement in this newsletter.

December 9

CCCSS annual Christmas party. 2 pm at the SLO library. See detailed announcement in this newsletter.

2013

February 9

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Winter Show. Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. 10am to 4pm. For information: Chris Miller-- cmiller@cox.net

February 16


Club field trip to Lotus Land and San Marcos Growers. \$25 per person for members (this includes entrance to Lotus Land and bus transportation). See Jim Harlow for sign up.

June 15 to 20--CSSA 35th Biennial Convention. Austin, TX (save the date)

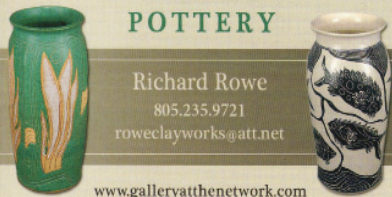
<http://CSSA2013.com> See announcement in this newsletter.

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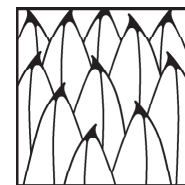
Buy At CaptivatingCacti.com



November Board Meeting Notes:

11/11/12

An overly long general meeting was followed by a fairly short board meeting. The first topic was deciding how much to charge non-members for the Lotusland trip. The board agreed on a \$55 price but, as noted above, we want to encourage guests to become members – a win-win situation for everyone. The board also encourages members and guests to assist in the set-up (come at 1:30 p.m.) and take-down of our room before and after the meal and auctions. The board discussed paying taxes on auction plants and amendments to the Standing Rules. The Executive Board is planning to meet for an extended off-site meeting in December to address matters that are difficult to address in the short time remaining after main meetings – we are required to be out of the room by 5:30.



Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
On the web at: <http://centralcoastcactus.org/>

EDITOR: Terry Excell: txlraiders@gmail.com
1680 13th St. Los Osos, CA, 93402
All submissions to the CCCSS newsletter **must be submitted two weeks prior** to the monthly meeting.

PRESIDENT Charles Varni charles@varni.org 459-6698	VICE PRESIDENT Markus Mumper MARKUSMUMPER@GMAIL.COM 773-1499	SECRETARY Carol Moss carol.moss@gmail.com 438-4906	TREASURER Maggie Wagner margaretwagner@gmail.com 773-1499	CSSA AFFILIATE Rob Skillin 709-3033
AT-LARGE James Harlow harlowj2@gmail.com 550-6660	AT-LARGE Nicole DeVecchio nifter@sbcglobal.net 550-6660	PUBLICITY Wayne Mills wwmills50@hotmail.com 481-3495	HOSPITALITY Pat Gilson hupt74@att.net 481-5596	LIBRARIAN Gene Schroeder Leschroeder@earthlink.net 929-2161

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.