



On the Dry Side

FEBRUARY 2013

CCCSS January Meeting Recap

1/13/2013

President Charles Varni opened the January meeting by greeting new visitors and thanking club members who provided refreshments for the meeting. All received a succulent and were warmly greeted. Charles announced that Nicole DeVecchio, Member-at-Large, was forced to resign her position. Anyone who is interested in filling this vacancy should contact a board member.

Jim Harlow gave a status report on the February 16 trip to Lotusland and San Marcos Growers, a wholesale nursery in the Santa Barbara area. It is suggested that potential plant buyers visit San Marcos Growers' website prior to the trip for a listing of plants available at that time. Jim has arranged for a larger bus and has started a new wait list. To place your name on the wait list, please forward payment to Jim. He will refund any funds not used. **BRING A BOX FOR PLANTS YOU EXPECT TO PURCHASE AT THE NURSERY.** Boxes will not be provided by the nursery. There is plenty of room in the cargo hold of the bus for plant storage.

Charles extended thanks to Librarian Gene Schroeder for his efforts in reorganizing the library. Gene has made the library much more user friendly and has added some useful links to the website.

Charles Varni then introduced Charles Spotts who has been presenting the Plant-of-the-Month article in On the Dry Side and has given the verbal presentation at meetings, usually bringing examples from his own collection. Dr. Spotts is retiring from his Plant-of-the-Month activities, and the membership was loud and vocal in expressing its thanks to Charles for his dedication and erudition. Charles's final presentation was on Mesembs – short for Mesembryanthemum, which means flowering at mid-day. There are hundreds of genera/species worldwide, but the ones we are interested in are mainly from southern Africa. They are small and make nice pot plants. Mesembs grow in vastly different habitats and some are winter-growers, some grow in summer, making it difficult to know how to provide the kind of care each requires. Dr. Spotts prepared a spreadsheet with the common names of some Mesembs and their requirements and will make this information available. See, also, the article in last month's newsletter for more details. He also discussed the plants on the Brag Table, mostly Pelargoniums, the subject of today's guest speaker.

After Rob Skillin discussed the raffle plants, Markus Mumper introduced Robin Parer, who spoke on her love of Xerophytic Pelargoniums, members of the Geranium Family. Robin has a nursery that specializes in geraniums and pelargoniums and her website has more information on these plants than can be adequately summarized here, so explore further if you have an interest in this interesting succulent.

- Submitted By Carol Moss, Secretary

Lotusland Field Trip Checklist!

February 16, 2013-----Contact Jim Harlow for more information 550-6660

- Those planning on buying plants **MUST** bring boxes labeled with your name
- You **MUST BRING CASH** to buy plants at San Marcos Growers to facilitate purchases
- Pick up at 7A at Big 5 in Madonna Plaza
- Pick up at Pismo Beach Outlet center about 7:30
- 10A to 12 - San Marcos Growers- (Check the website before the trip to see the plants that they have in stock <http://www.smgrowers.com/>)
- Fast food or Brown bag lunch (lunch not supplied by club)
- 1:30 - 3:30 guided tour of cactus and succulent gardens at Lotusland
- 4P leave for home

***If you are signed up and cannot go, contact Jim Harlow IMMEDIATELY!

LIBRARY NEWS.....by Gene Schroeder

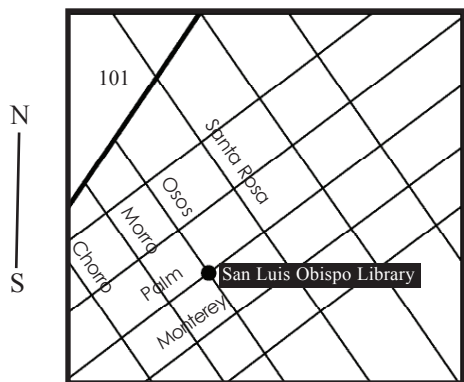
The library overhaul is coming along with the planned new changes to be complete by the end of March. There is one important duty left that requires some help from everyone.

The books listed below are missing from our library inventory. Some may be simply long overdue, others, missed in the checkout records, or just, borrowed. Please check to see if you have any of these and please return them so that other members may have them available.

- Agaves of Continental North America, by H S Gentry – HB
- Cacti & Succulents Step by Step Growing Success, by B. Keen – PB
- Cacti and Succulents, by Gunther Anderson – 1983, 312 pages -- HB
- Cacti: The Illustrated Dictionary, by R. & K. Preston-Mafham – HB
- Cactus Basics, by Tony & Susan Mace -- PB
- Caudiciform & Pachycaul Succulents, by Gordon Rowley -- HB
- Complete Book of Cacti and Succulents, by T. Hewitt -- HB
- Crassulas in Cultivation, by Vera Higgins -- 1964, 80 pages, HB
- Encyclopedia of Cacti, by Cullman, Gotz & Groner – HB
- Haworthia Handbook, The New , by M. B. Bayer -- SB
- Mesembs of the World, by Gideon Smith -- HB
- Pachycaul & Caudiciform Plants, A Guide to Growing, by P. de Vosjoli
- Sanseveria, The Splendid, by B. Juan Chahinian – SB
- Succulent Success in the Garden, by Kapitany & Shulz – HB
- Bradleya, Yearbook #9 of the British Cactus & Succulent Society-1991
- Bradleya, Yearbook #20 of the British Cactus & Succulent Society-2002

NEXT MEETING:

Sun. Feb 10 at
2:00 pm



San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY

Ernesto Sandoval

South African Bulbs

Do you like bulbs? Ernesto Sandoval, director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, will be talking about his experience growing South African bulbs. Come see pretty pictures of these photogenic flowers and learn about their diversity in both foliage and flower as well as their horticultural needs, and some of the reasons why South Africa has so many of them! Also, Ernesto will be bringing bulbs and other succulent beauties to purchase for your benefit and that of the Botanical Conservatory. Nerine, Lachenalia, Albuca, Cyrtanthus and an assortment of other bulbs including a few CA natives will be available as well as less common Aloes and other succulents from South Africa and elsewhere. Nearly all of these species are quite suitable for and tested in Northern California, especially SLO!



Lachenalia aloides

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

1/13/2013

Following the general membership meeting of the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society on January 13, 2013, the following board members assembled:

President, Charles Varni; Vice-President, Markus Mumper; Secretary, Carol Moss; Treasurer, Maggie Wagner; CSSA Affiliate, Rob Skillin; Member-at-Large, James Harlow; Publicity Chairperson, Wayne Mills; Hospitality Chairperson, Pat Gilson; and Librarian Gene Schroeder.

The board members continued the discussion regarding CCCSS's termination of the contract with Transfirst. The board concluded that if the pressure being applied by Charles Varni doesn't convince them to waive the \$250 cancelation fee, we will not pursue the matter further.

Jim Harlow updated the board on plans for the Lotusland trip, and Gene Schroeder described his efforts to improve the club's library. A .pdf of the club's available titles will be put on the webpage. Rob Skillin requested that the treasurer perform an analysis to determine if raffle ticket sales cover the cost of raffle plants.

The board members remembered that the seedlings that the members started last fall were supposed to be brought back in February for "show and tell." For details, please see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.

After brief, non-binding discussions of some miscellaneous matters, the board adjourned.

Submitted by Carol Moss, Secretary

REMEMBER THOSE SEEDS WE STARTED?

Last fall we had the opportunity to start some succulents from seed. Please bring your baby succulents to the next meeting for show and tell!

Your membership in the CCCSS entitles you to a California Garden Clubs, Inc. membership card. The cards will be at the front entrance desk at the meeting this Sunday, so pick one up if you are interested.

For a list of nurseries, garden centers and gardens around the state that offer CGCI members a discount go to californiagardenclubs.com, then click on "Additional CGCI Services for Clubs", then click on "discounts".

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Succulent (?) Bulbs

FEBRUARY

BY GENE SCHROEDER

All long time C&S fans are used to the question “What about bulbs. Are they Succulents?” This question has no real answer since there is no official botanical definition for “succulent plant”. In the new Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants: Monocotyledons, editor Urs Egli suggests a pragmatic approach. If the species in question grows in cultivation with other succulents and is native to semiarid regions and shows some degree of zerophytic adaptation, it was included. Many of these borderline plants are bulbous monocots. Many of which have found their way into our collections and shows under pachycaul or succulent categories.

Origin for the majority of these bulbs is South Africa but they may be found throughout the worlds arid areas. Taxonomy, especially in the Hyacinthaceae, is a real challenge. There are conflicting revisions and opinions but no consensus. Many species may be found under multiple names.

Culture is as varied as the plants themselves. Some are evergreen, some completely deciduous. Dormancy varies as well. Flowering time can be before leafing out, or after. Some like sun, some shade. For growing advice, research the specific species or ask others that are growing them successfully.

If you wish to add some of these interesting and unusually plants to your collection, try looking for genera and species in the list below.

Amaryllidaceae:

- *Boophane* – “ox slaughter” 2 species; *disticha* & *haemanthoides*, with many variable forms
- *Brunsvigia* – and xAmarygia (hybrids of *Brunsvigia* and *A. belladonna*) large, often epigeal bulbs with stunning inflorescences, look for *josephinae*, *orientalis*, *bosmaniae* or *grandiflora*
- *Cyrtanthus* - seldom seen and difficult – amazing flowers
- *Haemanthus* – find *albiflos* (easy to grow and common) *coccineus*, or *multiflorus*
- *Rauhia* – north Peru valleys at 1000-1500 ft, *peruviana* or *multiflora*, winter dormant, flower as dormancy breaks

Hyacinthaceae:

- *Albuca* - the most common succulent bulb – *A. bracteata* = *Ornithogalum longibracteatum* or “Pregnant Onion”
- *Bowia* - *volubilis* now *Drimia volubilis* or “Climbing Onion”, also common and well loved
- *Drimia* –small or large bulb, usually deciduous, look at other genera in this list for examples
- *Lachenalia* –70+ species with only one marginal succulent *L. patula* = *succulenta*
- *Ledebouria* – 16+ species related to *Scilla*, 3 succulent including the common *L. socialis*
- *Litanthus* –monotypic genus now included in *Drimia*, tiny bulbs from Namaqualand
- *Massonia* – small, wildly variable plants resulting in a taxonomic mess, have two prostrate leaves, summer dormant, and a head like inflorescence at ground level, now quite available due new introductions and ease of propagation - look for *depressa*, *pustulata* or the very fragrant *jasminiflora*
- *Ornithogalum* – usually small compact plants good for pot culture, spring summer bloomers, look for *O. dubium*
- *Schizobasis* –one notable species, *S. intricata*, now moved to *Drimia*
- *Urginia* – few species now moved to *Drimia*, look for *U. maritima* “Sea Squil”, big bulb!

Some websites to guide you to this group:

-Pacific Bulb Society: <http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/HomePage>

-Indigenous Bulb Society of South Africa: <http://www.safribulbs.org.za/>

-International Bulb Society: <http://www.bulbsociety.org/>

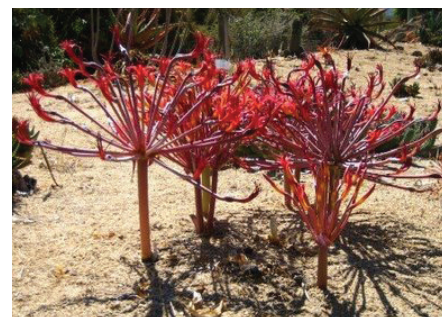
Succulent Bulbs



Ledebouria socialis



Boophane disticha



Brunsvigia josephinae



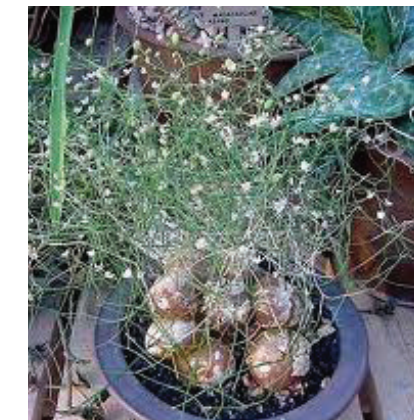
Massonia jasminiflora



Rauhia multiflora



Ornithogalum dubium



Schizobasis intricata (Drimia)

Scientific Names

Some of us from a non-scientific background get lost with the scientific names of our plants. The scientific name (specific species name) of any plant, animal, fungus, alga or bacterium consists of two Latinized words. The first word is the name of the genus to which the organism belongs. The second word is the specific epithet or specific term of the species. Together, the genus plus the specific epithet make up the species name. The species name and scientific name are synonymous.

For example: *Acer* is the genus of the maples, *Homo* the genus of humans, and *Escherichia* a genus of one type of bacterium. This name, the genus, can stand alone and is meaningful to scientists. The specific term or epithet cannot stand by itself. It is meaningless without connection to a specific genus because there are often several genera that use the same species term such as *Tilia americana*, *Fraxinus americana* and *Ulmus americana*. All are scientific names, all have the same specific "epithet", but all are classified in different genera. By the way, these are the scientific names for the basswood, elm and ash of America (the *americana* in the scientific name).

In the future, there will be occasional articles covering some of the roots used in scientific names from the book Botanical Latin by William Stearn. Once we learn some of these roots, we will be able to better understand why a plant has a specific scientific name and better understand some of the technical material presented by our guest lecturers.

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Upcoming Events

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 Lotusland and San Marcos Growers. \$25 per person for members (this includes entrance to Lotusland and bus transportation). See article in this newsletter. Contact Jim Harlow -- 550-6660

March 22-24

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show and Sale. Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. For information: 562-587-3357.

April 13-14

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale. South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. For information: 310-832-2262.

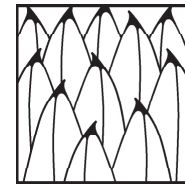
April 28

Huntington Plant Sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Huntington Botanical Gardens. San Marino, California.

May 25 & 26

CCCSS Annual Show & Sale. Details coming!

June 15 to 20--CSSA 35th Biennial Convention. Austin, TX (save the date)
<http://CSSA2013.com>



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

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

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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.