

# On the Dry Side

E - N E W S L E T T E R

JANUARY 2013

## CCCSS December Meeting Recap

12/9/2012

Congratulations CCCSS members and friends ... once again we threw the party that sets the bar higher! The food was uniformly delicious and abundant, and a huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated. That is YOU if you were there. If you weren't, we hope to see you soon ... or at next year's feast if that satisfies your succulent fix.

Besides being generous with food and supplies for the meal, our members also contributed many fine plants and creative plant-related items to the live and silent auctions. A portion of the club's proceeds from those sales has been contributed to the San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens. Our contribution will be matched dollar-for-dollar, for a donation totaling \$500. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

- Submitted By Carol Moss, Secretary



## MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

by Charles Varni

Happy New Year to all you succulent lovers. Just like our plants, the club is growing and pupping new starts. We are close to 200 enthusiastic members at this point. This year will see many exciting events, topics, and speakers. Vice President Markus Mumper is already busy scheduling speakers including our Santa Barbara friend Gregg DeChirico, recently elected President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. We also hope to have Stephen McCabe from the Arboretum at UC Santa Cruz who is a world authority on Dudleyas of the Channel Islands and central coast. Many decades ago, while hiking off trail up a remote canyon stream in the Santa Barbara back country, I came to a waterfall that plunged into a ten foot deep pool. On both sides of the waterfall sandstone walls rose about 30 feet and were covered with these magnificent white leaved succulents with multiple spikes of red flowers two-three feet long. Hummingbirds zipped to and fro as they fed on the nectar. It was love at first sight. My succulent soul mate, *dudleya pulverulenta* (the "chalk" dudleya), had been found. Maybe you recall your first specific succulent love. Our club members come from a variety of backgrounds, different persuasions, have a range of beliefs. And what unites us is that passion and love for a family of plants that speaks to us with a voice that more and more seem to hear. Welcome to our world and another year together in the CCCSS.



## Lotusland Bus Trip Update

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

- Those planning on buying plants at either SM growers or LotusLand need to bring boxes to contain their plants in the cargo hold of the bus.
- 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
- Fast food or Brown bag lunch (lunch not supplied by the club)
- 1:30 - 3:30 guided tour of cactus and succulent gardens at Lotusland
- 4P leave for home
- You **must bring cash** to buy plants at San Marcos Growers to facilitate purchases

**\*\*Jim has aquired a larger bus for the excursion! There may be openings. An announcement will be made at the meeting or contact him to get on the waiting list.\*\***

NEXT MEETING:

Sun. Jan 13 at  
2:00 pm

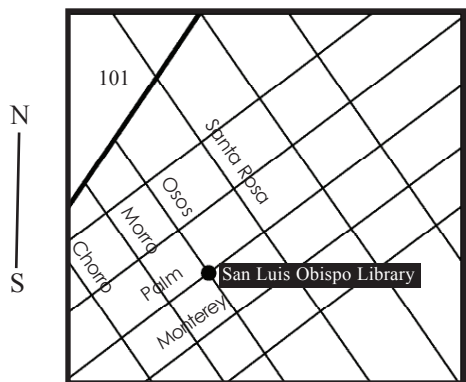
**LIBRARY NEWS.....by Gene Schroeder**

As librarian, and guided by the BOD I am working to update our booklist with the objective of making it easier to use. We have books ranging from beginner friendly to hard-core scientific in nature. I plan to add descriptive info to each of the on-line listings that will guide users in their reading choices. The newer and most popular books will get short introductions or reviews as added.

A side benefit to this will be to reduce the monthly task of transporting the library to the meetings. The newest and most popular books as determined by check-out frequency will be available to view or reserve at all meetings. The most weighty and least used will be available only through request. This status will also be added to the on-line list. I expect this project to be finished by March.

I am also currently compiling a list of older reference books that, although valuable classics for the book collector, offer little for most club members. We will review these and offer them for sale, using the proceeds to purchase newer titles that will better serve the group.

Lastly, I am working with our NL editor, Terry on a monthly feature we will call "The Digital Library". It will highlight what I feel to be the best of on-line information and resources. See this month's link for a sample.



San Luis Obispo  
Public Library

995 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo

**SPEAKER OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY**

**Robin Parer** \*\*He will also have plants for sale\*\*



*pelargonium rapaceum* & bloom

Xerophytic Pelargoniums:  
Some Treasures You Can't  
Do Without!

The Geranium Family has many astonishing members. Xerophytic pelargoniums are some of the easiest and most interesting plants you can grow in that family. There are succulent stems and leaves, large tuberous roots and there are fascinating flowers, some of which are scented. We will look at a range of examples and talk about how to grow them successfully.



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.

**The Digital Library**

---Most long time users of internet based media have become firm believers in Sturgeon's Law and its most common addendum. Simply stated – "Ninety percent of the internet is crap! The bigger problem is that no one can agree on what constitutes the ten percent!". I hope to offer some guidance to finding that 10% as it relates to our interest in C&S.

---Google searches will catch both the 90 and 10% but you can greatly improve results by using sources of the **types** listed below (with examples).

**Portals** – are the best place to start.

For us, the best is <http://www.cactus-mall.com/index.htm>

This is a really a menu assembled by Tony Mace. Consult it for links to almost all national based or international specialty societies. And much other content. As example: a link related to January's POM, try The Mesemb Study Group - <http://www.mesemb.org/> or this - <http://www.aizoaceae.info/joomla/> and lastly, the amazing photo site of KKAgrawal – here on mesembs

<http://www.kkagrwal.com/mesembnew/mesembpages.htm>

**On-line Journals** - There are several but the Cactus Explorer's Club Journal is a prize example of what is possible and previews the future direction of many society and specialty publications. Currently 6 issues, free downloads in .pdf form - follow link <http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/>

**Forums** – Many people have been scared off of poorly managed forums which can become very hostile places for newbie's. The good ones are amazing sources of advice, knowledge and fellowship. My favorites include:

<http://www.cactiguide.com/> and it's newer companion site

<http://www.succulentguide.com/>The very expert choice for landscape plant info -

<http://www.xericworld.com/forums/home.php>

The BCSS Forum - <http://www.bcsc.org.uk/forum/>

More to come next month ...

# PLANT OF THE MONTH-

# JANUARY

## Pot Friendly Mesembs (no *Lithops* or *Conophytum*)

BY CHARLES SPOTTS

“Mesemb” is a popular term used for succulent members of the family *Aizoaceae* (or their own family, *Mesembryanthemaceae*, a word which literally translated means flowering at midday), also sometimes referred to as the “Ice plant family”. The mesembs are characterized by a common reproductive structure and daisy-like flowers, but exhibit a large diversity in form, size, root and stem structure, habitat, and ecology. Mesembs occur mainly in southern Africa, especially in the western winter rainfall desert regions but extending well into the central plateau, the southern cape region, and even into the eastern regions of the continent where the rainfall patterns and thus growing seasons are different. Currently there are 123 recognized genera, but new genera are constantly being recognized as new habitats are explored. Some of these genera are widespread and consist of dozens of different species, others are extremely localized with only a few species, and some are monotypic, that is, containing only a single species not seemingly closely related to any other species.

Although many of the mesembs are too large or too weedy or too ugly for our porch culture, many of the smaller geophytes and small bushy forms produce beautiful specimens, exhibiting a variety of pleasing leaf, stem, and root structure, as well as spectacularly colorful flower displays. We are frequently reminded of the genera *Lithops* and *Conophytum* as examples of this family, but there are many other genera which should be considered. These additional genera are not difficult to grow, but only if their particular ecological relations are understood—some are winter growers, some summer; a few will tolerate abundant water but most must be watered only sparingly even during their growth period. A few of my favorites illustrate the diversity of this group.

**Spring-autumn (summer) growers**, dry winter rest, water sparingly in summer

*Aloinopsis*. 14 species. Rough, spoon-shaped leaves

*Bijlia*. 2 species. Yellowish spoon-shaped leaves

*Frithia*. “Elephant’s feet”. Leaves cylindrical with windows. Thick roots

*Hereroa*. “clock plant”. 33 species. Noodle-shaped leaves.

*Marlothistella*. Monotypic. Leaves soft, needle-like. Thick tap root.

*Nananthus*. 10 species differ in cultivation requirements. Thick pointed leaves. Tuberous roots.

*Neohenricia*. “coral plant”. 2 species. Dwarf leaves, warty. Scented flowers

*Pleiospilos*. “split rock”. 4 species. Thick fleshy leaves fused at base, some species purple.

*Titanopsis*. “sheep’s tongue”. 5 species. Warty leaves pinkish, orange, or greenish.

**Autumn-spring (winter) growers**, dry summer rest. Water sparingly during growth season

*Argyroderma*. “baby’s bottom” 11 species. Basily united pairs of rounded grey-green leaves.

*Cheiridopsis*. 33 Species. Leaf shape variable, sheathed at base.

*Dinteranthus*. “golf ball”. 4 species. Round leaves.

*Fenestraria*. “baby toes”. Monotypic. Leaves cylindrical, buried with apical windows.

*Lapidaria*. “rock mesemb”. Monotypic. Leaves three sided, pinkish.

*Monilaria*. “pea mesemb”. 5 species. Succulent stems bear two types of leaves.

*Ruschianthus*. Monotypic. Greyish sickle-shaped leaves.

**Year round growers**

*Faucaria*. “tiger jaws”. 33 species. Warty, ribbed leaves with toothed margins. Light shade.

*Gibbaeum*. “parrot beak” 16 species. Greyish leaves in pairs differ in morphology.

*Glottiphyllum*. 17 species. Tongue-shaped green fleshy leaves in rows.

*Rhinephyllum*. 12 species. Rough leaves. Thin stems. Tuberous roots.

*Rhombophyllum*. 2 species. Boat-shaped leaves.

Ref: Mesembs of the World. Gideon Smith et al. 1998

## Mesembryanthemaceae (“Mesembs”)



*Titanopsis hugo-schlechteri*



*Titanopsis calcarea*



*Cheiridopsis*



*Argyroderma framesii*



*Faucaria*



*Aloinopsis rubrolineata*



*Cheiridopsis*



*Cheiridopsis*

\*\*\* A special thanks to Charles Spotts for his contribution to the “Plant of the Month”. His knowledge and hard work have been greatly appreciated!\*\*\*



*Pleiospilos  
and blooms*

## More "Mesembs"



*Ruschia*



*Bijlia*



*Nananthus*



*Gibbaeum*

## **WEBSITES**

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/join-us> -- California Garden Clubs. Our club is a member so every person in our club is a member. This is the link that explains some of the benefits.

[http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/browse\\_imgs/plant.html](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!)

<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.

<http://www.cssainc.org/> Cactus and Succulent Society of America

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**12/16/2012**

Thanks to the hospitality of President Charles Varni, the *CCCSS Board of Directors* had a very productive meeting on Sunday afternoon, December 16. In attendance were the following: Charles Varni, Vice President Markus Mumper, Secretary Carol Moss, Treasurer Maggie Wagner, Librarian Gene Schroeder, Newsletter Editor Terry Excell, Hospitality Chair Pat Gilson, Publicity Chair Wayne Mills, Member-at-Large Jim Harlow, and our CSSA Representative Rob Skillin.

- 1.-It was agreed by the officers that the Secretary shall present the minutes of the previous meeting(s) to the Newsletter Editor not more than one week after the meeting(s).
- 2.-The board decided that advertising in *CCCSS's On the Dry Side* will be limited to those members with a paid business membership.
- 3.-The board gave the President the authority to conduct meetings as he sees fit, including the allocation of time for various segments of the meeting.
- 4.-Financial issues were reviewed in depth.

-The decision of whether or not to hire a professional accountant was postponed. In the meantime, Gene Schroeder will continue to prepare the club's tax accounting, and Maggie will do basic bookkeeping. The club's mailing address will be Maggie Wagner's address, with the exception of tax-related mail, which will continue to be sent to Gene Schroeder.

-Sales taxes were discussed at length. It was agreed that the club will continue to buy plants from wholesale dealers who are unwilling to collect sales tax. Club members who are authorized to purchase plants should return all receipts to the Treasurer so that the appropriate taxes are paid. Winners of raffle items are exempt from paying taxes on the value of their winnings.

-The subject of membership dues also received much attention. When CCCSS joined CGCI in July 2011 we incurred a cost of \$4.50 per member for that organization's dues. With that in mind, the board reluctantly decided to increase the yearly dues for membership in CCCSS. Membership fees will be increased by \$5.00 for each of the three categories: an individual membership will be \$20; a family membership will be \$25; and a business membership will be \$40.

-The club's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30, which is also the term of a yearly membership. Anyone who becomes a member in the period from April 1 through June 30 will pay for a year's membership but will actually receive a membership of fifteen months, with the first three months free. Members joining any time during the first three quarters of the fiscal year (July 1 through March 31) will pay a full year's membership, with no proration. We also are encouraging members with e-mail to receive *On the Dry Side* via e-mail because of the significantly higher cost of mailing hard copies.

-CCCSS does not have a specific policy about charitable contributions, but we had a good year financially. After discussion, on motion duly made and seconded, the board voted that CCCSS will make a contribution to the SLO Botanical Gardens in the amount of \$250. (The donation was made the following day in order to take advantage of a matching grant arrangement.)

5.-A financial calendar is being prepared and will be combined with a calendar of events and published on our website/Facebook pages.

6.-Dr. Charles Spotts will no longer be presenting the Plant-of-the-Month portion of our monthly meetings. Considerable discussion resulted in a decision to experiment with rotating member presenters until we find a permanent replacement. We are grateful to Dr. Spotts for his many fine contributions to CCCSS.

7.-The resignation and replacement of one of our two Members-at-Large, Nicole DeVecchio, was discussed and an announcement will be placed in *On the Dry Side*.

8.-Jim Harlow reported that there was very high demand for the February trip to Lotusland and arrangements have been made for a larger bus to accommodate ten additional people.

After a very rewarding three-hour meeting, the Board of Directors adjourned with greetings to each other and to all of you with wishes for 2013 to be the best yet!

~ Submitted by Carol Moss, Secretary

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our wonderful Member-At-Large, Nicole DeVecchio, had to retire from the club and her duties due to relocation. We are looking for a member that would like to participate in the role that she vacated and complete her term (July 1, 2013). It is a great opportunity to experience the club on a deeper level and see if you would like to participate in the seat of a Member-At-Large for a possible full term without the two year commitment. Talk to one of the club officers if you are interested.

Please support our business members!

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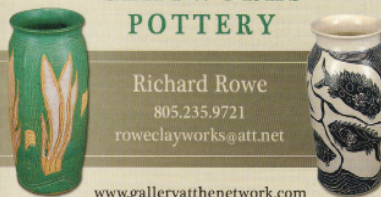
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## Upcoming Events

### January 19

Desert Forum. Huntington Botanical Gardens. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. For information: 626-405-2160. (Jan 20-CSSA BOD meeting)

### 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 Jim Harlow for sign up.

### 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.

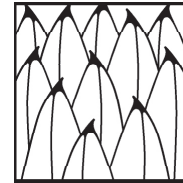
### April 13-14

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. See above for information.

**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/>

**EDITOR:** Terry Excell: [txraidrs@gmail.com](mailto:txraidrs@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.

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