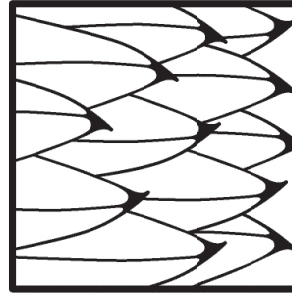


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Markus Mumper
780 Merced St.
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



On the Dry Side

July 2011

Inside this issue: CCCSS June Meeting Recap

- Upcoming Speaker
- Tom Knapik
- Plants of the Month
- California Natives

I think we are getting a good reputation for an awesome Show & Sale. It takes many people to pull this off so many thanks to all that helped. A special thanks to **Rob Skillin** and **Nick Wilkinson** for being co-chairs.

Lemurs, Lizards and Aloes: Madagascar Revisited was our June presentation. Our quest speaker was **Kelly Griffin**. Kelly is from San Diego and is an expert grower known for his beautiful *Aloe* hybrids, among others. He shared his latest adventure in Madagascar. This island is the size of California. The country has a mix of people that speak many dialects of Malagasy and some speak French.

Their chief crop is rice, the key to their economy. The island is home to some huge *Pachypodium*. Some of the species are *gracilis*, *lameri*, *brevicaule* and *geayi*. The *Pachypodium* tend to flower when they have little or no foliage.

Aloe grow all over Madagascar, some growing in limestone cliffs. One can find the *Aloe capitata* growing in rock masses. Kelly found three new species in this last trip.

Growing in sandy beaches was *Cyphostemma montagnacii* along with *Euphorbia stenoclada* and *Ceropegia dimorpha* growing among grasses.

Kelly shared with us some of the most beautiful pictures of lizards/chameleons. These creatures are plentiful there. The beautiful radiated tortoise was also abundant there. The people of Madagascar don't kill them and each shell has a unique pattern.

Kelly walked many miles a day looking for that special *Aloe* and then ended up sleeping in small mud huts. Sounds like a great experience; Thanks Kelly for a most interesting presentation.

For more info. on Kelly's plants: Xericgrowers.com or Xericworld.com

See everyone in July ~Jan Moon

Speaker of the Month _____

Tom Knapik
Geometric Geophytes

Tom Knapik was born and raised in Northern New York. He moved to California where he attended and graduated from Humboldt State University in 1981 with degrees in Biology and Zoology. While visiting a college friend in 1982 he saw a small succulent collection that changed the direction of his life. He moved to San Diego and worked part time for David Grigsby.

Tom became a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society and eventually became more involved as program chair, board member, president and then newsletter editor. He was the annual show chair for 12 years. He has photographed succulent collections in England, Italy, the Czech Republic, Austria, Thailand, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand. He's photographed succulents in habitat in Mexico, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, and the U.S.

His program will look at the amazing little gems under our feet. Adaptive strategies, habitat characteristics and growth design will be discussed.



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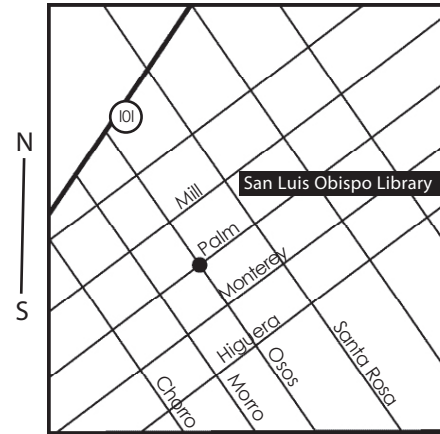
P. O. Box 7149 email: jgoetz@charter.net
Los Osos, CA 93412

NEXT meeting:

Sun, July 10'th at
2:00 pm

San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

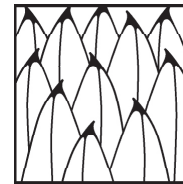


NEWS FROM THE MAY BOARD MEETING:

- Maggie Wagner and Jan Moon will take over Library duties in a month. Jeanne & Martin will help in the transition. **Thank You Jeanne & Martin** for all the years of your dedication to the library duties.
- Rob addressed problems with tag swapping at show. We will deal with this before the next show but possible suggestions for the future would be to put stickers on expensive plants, to alert cashiers.
- Exoticbooks.com has offered that any purchase made with them by a CCCSS member, they will donate 10% to our club.

BOARD—MEETING

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



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 Gene Schroeder 929-2161 | VICE PRESIDENT Nick Wilkinson 528-8880 | SECRETARY Jan Moon 927-1310 | CSSA AFFILIATE Rob Skillin 473-0788 | TREASURER Edie Price 489-8491 |
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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.

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 TO INVENTORY OUR
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**PLEASE RETURN
 ALL OUTSTANDING
 BOOKS AT OUR JULY
 MEETING.**

**BOOKS CANNOT BE
 CHECKED OUT AT
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I and the rest of the Board are pleased to announce the voting results for fiscal 2011 **Member at Large** positions for the CCCS Board.

Please join me in welcoming **Nicole DeVecchio** and **Jim Harlow** to the Board.

We look forward to their insight and direction in helping us continue to maintain and advance our young club in it's stated purpose.

Gene Schroeder, President

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Upcoming Events

July 23 - July 30

XVIII International Botanical Congress

1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Victoria 3006 Australia

<http://www.ibc2011.com/>

July 29 - 30

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale

Anaheim United Methodist Church: 12:00pm - 7:00pm, 9:00am - 5:00pm

1000 South State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA

August 13 - 14

26th Annual Intercity Show & Sale

Los Angeles County Arboretum: 9:00am - 5:00pm

301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

September 17 - 18

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Jardines de San Juan: 9:00am - 5:00pm, 9:00am - 3:30pm

115 Third St., San Juan Bautista, CA

September 25

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction

Friends of Rancho San Pedro: 12:00pm start

18127 South Alameda St., Rancho Dominguez, CA

November 5 - 6

San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Los Angeles County Arboretum: 9:00am - 5:00pm

301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

July 29 - 30

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Winter Show & Sale

Anaheim United Methodist Church: 12:00pm - 7:00pm, 9:00am - 5:00pm

1000 South State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA

Hospitality News

Sign up to bring refreshments and get a 4 inch plant!! You must sign the **Hospitality Sign-Up sheet** and bring refreshments to get a plant. We need refreshments for each monthly meeting and we need to know who is bringing them. Thanks to everyone who has been contributing to the refreshment fund; donations can be made at the refreshment table.

~Pat & Ann

Succulent Plants of California

if your growing some of the plants discussed please share them at our next meeting!

This month the topic is a catalog of the succulent plants (other than cacti) of Central and Southern California. The areas included are the Mojave Desert (including Death Valley), the Sonoran Desert (Northern Baja California and the Northwestern Mexican State of Sonora, and here including Anza Borrego S.P.), and the Colorado Desert (sometimes regarded as a northern subdivision of the Sonoran Desert basically comprising the lower Colorado River Valley). Areas also included are the coastal plains, the coastal chaparral belt and offshore islands.

Agave - Agaves form trunkless rosettes of thick fleshy leaves with spiny tips and teeth along the margins. There are about 250 species of Agave, but only 3 occur naturally in California. *Agave deserti* is found in the Sonoran Desert of Anza-Borrego S.P. It is a relatively small rosette but forms large clusters. *Agave shawii* is primarily a Baja California native but occurs rarely in the San Diego coastal region. It is a bright green, colorful plant with fierce teeth which form attractive imprints on neighboring leaves. *Agave utahensis* v. *nevadensis* is found in the Clark Mountains of Eastern California near the Nevada border. It is a relatively small grey-green agave with narrow lanceolate leaves terminating in a long thin spine.

Dudleya - The native habitat of the genus *Dudleya* is the U.S. Pacific Southwest and neighboring Baja California with the primary distribution in California. Eggl recognizes 44 species of which about 24 are native to California, primarily occurring in the winter rainfall regions of the Pacific Coast from sea level into the higher elevations of the coastal mountains and in the offshore islands. They grow well in cultivation and are best treated as winter growers and kept rather dry during the summer. Species of interest to the central coast include:

abramsii, *caespitosa*, *farinosa*, *palmeri* (coastal S.L.O. & S.B. Co.'s)
candelabra, *gnoma*, *greenii*, *nesiotica*, *traskiae*, *virens* (offshore islands)
cymosa, *densiflora*, *lanceolata*, *verityi* (coastal mountains)

Elephant Trees - *Pachycormus discolor* is primarily a Mexican species, but isolated stands can be found in Anza Borrego S.P. *Bursera microphylla*, another Mexican species, can also be found in isolated regions of the Sonoran Desert and in Anza-Borrego S.P.

Nolina - *Nolina* are yucca-like plants belonging to the same family as *Dasyliirion* and *Beaucarnia*. There are about 30 species of *Nolina* occurring from the Southern U.S. to Central Mexico, but only 4 species occur in California. They are notable for their impressive inflorescences which can be seen for miles in the distance. *N. bigelovii* and *N. parryi* are found widespread in the Sonoran and Colorado Deserts. The plants form trunkless or short trunked rosettes with tall inflorescences which may reach as much as 10 feet high. *Nolina interrata* is a smaller fire-adapted species found only in the chaparral of a small isolated area near El Cajon in San Diego County. It has an underground trunk which branches and sends up clusters of rosettes. It grows readily but seems to flower only after a burn. *Nolina cismontana* occurs in isolated locales of the chaparral belt of the coastal mountains from Ventura to San Diego Counties.

Ocotillo - *Fouquieria splendens* is the only species of its family to occur in California. Its spiny branches, 1 to 2 inches in diameter, arise from a cluster near the base and may reach a height of 15 feet, each branch producing a cluster of tubular bright red flowers which attract hummingbirds, orioles, and photographers. The plant is drought deciduous, losing its leaves during dry periods, but capable of producing a new crop of leaves within days of a rain. It is a common site in the Colorado Desert between Indio and Blythe, and in the Anza-Borrego State Park.

Yucca - Anyone travelling from the central valley through the mountains of Interstate 5 to the Los Angeles basin will have seen the tall, almost luminescent, stalks of "spanish bayonet" or "our lord's candle". These tall spikes are the inflorescences of *Yucca whipplei*, widespread among the chaparral of the hillsides from Monterey to San Diego (This species has now been reclassified into its own genus, *Hesperoyucca*). The Joshua Tree, *Y. brevifolia*, is a bizarre tree requiring perhaps hundreds of years to achieve its ultimate status as a signature plant of the high desert, and arguably one of the most significant features of the entire California landscape. When mature they may be 30 to 40 feet tall. They are widespread throughout the Mojave Desert from the Antelope Valley into Nevada. Other yucca in California include the "spanish dagger", and *Y. schidigera*, and the "banana yucca", *Y. baccata*, both occurring in the Mojave Desert.



Yucca brevifolia



Nolina parryi



Hesperoyucca whipplei



Dudleya palmeri

References:

Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada, Stephen Ingram, 2008.
Crassulaceae: Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants, Urs Eggl, ed., 2003.