

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



On the Dry Side

March 2010

Inside this issue: CCCSS February Meeting Recap

- Upcoming Speaker
- Guiillermo Rivera
- Plant of the Month
- Espostoa
- Last Month's
- Meeting Minutes

The February Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society meeting got off to a great start with four new guests and a large attendance. Our president **Gene Schroeder** passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers for our upcoming show & sale. We will get the committee organized soon. If you missed the meeting and want to help please contact **Rob Skillin**. This is our 4th annual show & sale and if you haven't been, you must go by and check out all of the amazing specimens in the show. If these specimens don't inspire you nothing will. Our show will be May 29th and 30th.

For all you artistic people, we are looking for some designs for our t-shirt that we will be once again selling at our show. We will be displaying the different designs at the April meeting for your vote. You can also forward your design to nick@grownursery.com.

Our plant of the month was Aeonium. The Aeonium's are in the Grassulaceae family and native to the Canary Islands and parts of northern & western Africa. They are all looking real sharp now as they are winter growers and many are blooming. These sub-tropical succulents are ones that you can put into the ground and forget about, that is unless you live where it freezes.

Most Aeonium's are monocarpic, which means it dies after flowering. One species, Aeonium lindleyi, is an antidiote for the Euphorbia latex irritation. Our guest speaker, **Petra Crist** said she has put the juice from this Aeonium directly into her eyes after she got Euphorbia latex in her eyes! She confirms, it works.

Along with **Nick Wilkinson**, we had club member **Ken Byrne** also share some of his knowledge on Aeonium's. Nick noted the Aeonium nobilis turns red when stressed and has a unique flower that smells like honeycomb. He recommended the book "Aeonium in Habitat and Cultivation" by **Rudolf Schultz** as a must read for any Aeonium lover.

We were very honored to have Petra as our quest speaker of the month to share photos and stories of her trip to South Africa two years ago. She came from Germany in 1994 and has been collecting and selling plants ever since.

She shared pictures of some huge caudiciforms, Euphorbia, Crassula, Lithops and Hoodia growing alongside some beautiful rocks, quartz and lichen. There were huge stretches of Mesemb, like Cheiridopsis, in full bloom that looked like fields of snow.

With diamond mining and the making of new roads, the destruction of some of these beautiful plants and land is ongoing. Please check out Petra's website www.rare-succulents.com for some great plant material. Thank you Petra for your program and also for bringing some very unusual plants for sale to tempt us succulent lovers.

See you in March and Thank You to all the people who signed up to help with our show & sale.

~Jan Moon

P E R U

Speaker of the Month:

Dr. Guillermo Rivera - South American Cactus Expeditions

This month Argentinian Guillermo Rivera, owner of Cactus Expeditions, will speak about the glories of Peruvian succulents including the Matucana, Espostoa, Oroya, Lobivia, Haageocereus, Trichocereus, Opuntioides and many other genera as well as some fantastic bromeliads such as Puya raimondii (up to 30 feet tall). We will also see some of the wonderful ancient archeological ruins like Machu Picchu and the Nasca Lines and travel from the sea shore to Lake Titicaca and up high into the Andes.

Guillermo takes birders, cactus and bromeliad aficionados on tours to NW Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Brazil. His website address is: www.cactusexpeditions.com.ar



T-Shirt Contest

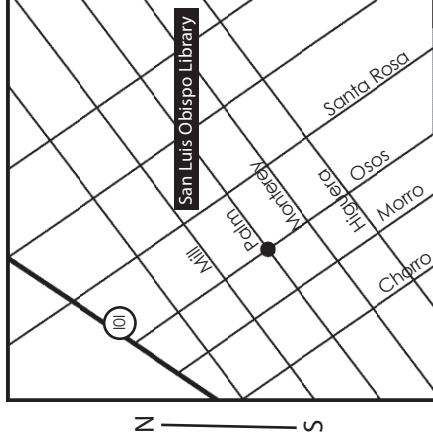
For all you artistic people: we are looking for some new designs for our CCCSS club t-shirt that we will once again be selling at our upcoming show. The different designs will be displayed at the April meeting for your vote. So bring your designs to the April meeting or you can also forward your design (or questions) to Nick's e-mail at: nick@grownursery.com.

NEXT meeting:

Sun, Mar. 14th at
2:00 pm

San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

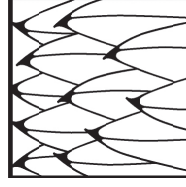


NEWS FROM THE FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:

- The sale & show committee will begin meetings in late Feb. – all volunteers are appreciated.
- We are missing 22 books from the library, so if anyone has forgotten, please return them.
- We are working on some fun up-coming field trips for members so stay tuned.
- We want to thank Rick Smith for the creation and maintenance of our website. Check it periodically as we are planning updates with new links and information: www.centralcoastcactus.org
- Keep an eye out for a Telegram Tribune article by Sharon Crawford.

BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on March 14th 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
EDITOR Markus Mumper 773-1499	ASST. EDITOR Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	PUBLICITY (Joan Field) (773-6644)	LIBRARIANS Marrin Howell & Jeanne Hanysz 544-5389	HOSPITALITY Pat Gilson 481-5596 Maggie Wagner 773-1499

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.

You Must See These DVDs!
 Enter CCCSS For 10% Off +Free Shipping

SUCCULENTS
 Those CAPTIVATING Cacti

Buy At CaptivatingCacti.com

the nursery at moonstone gardens

15% off for all CCCSS members

7432 Exotic Gardens Road | Cambria | CA | 93430
 PH 805-924-1340 www.grownursery.com

PLANTERA PRIMAL
 SOLAR ELECTRIC FIRED STONEWARE CERAMICS

CHARLES VARNI
 OCEANO, CALIFORNIA

805.459.6698
WWW.VARNI.ORG
CHARLES@VARNI.ORG

**WHEEL THROWN AND
 HAND BUILT CERAMICS**
 EST. 1988

Richard Rowe
 potter / artist

7432 Exotic Garden Rd.
 Cambria, CA 93428
 P 805 924 1340

roweclayworks@att.net

**The
 Clayworks**



E L C H O Y E R O S P E A K S :

Hola Amigo!

Question: El Choyero, what is the difference between perlite and pumice?

Answer: We all know that our succulent friends need a free draining soil to prosper. Two ways to achieve this are by incorporating perlite or pumice into our soils mix. I usually use 30% to 50% pumice by volume, in my mixes depending on the specific plants being potted, where they will be located and the other constituents of the mix.

Both perlite and pumice are of volcanic origin mined in California. Perlite is mined, crushed and heated to around 1,800°F when it expands 4 to 20 times its original volume. Pumice is mined and graded for use without any other processing. Both are white in color, have a neutral pH and are of closed cell composition so they do not hold much water.

The only major difference between the two materials is that perlite floats while pumice is generally heavier than water. Unless you use a relatively heavy and thick top dressing for your plants perlite will float to the surface creating (at least in my opinion) an unattractive appearance.

Perlite can be purchased in large bags at almost any nursery while the most reliable source of pumice is a product called DryStall marketed to horse people and can be purchased at any Farm Supply store.

Remember: Send your questions to: thechoyero@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

March 26-28

2010 Cattlemen's Western Art Show & Sale

CCCSS member and artist Tracy Paz will be presenting original pencil drawings as well as limited edition prints of Agaves (titanota, guadalajarana, franzosinii, macroacantha, parryi and more!) at the 2010 Cattlemen's Western Art Show & Sale located at the Paso Robles Event Center. For more information call Tracy at 818 383 2553 or visit: <http://www.cattlemenswesternartshow.com>.



April 10

The Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose

Buchser Middle School - 9:00am to 5:00pm
 1111 Belomy St., Santa Clara (408) 295-1634

April 17 - 18

Green Scene Plant Sale

Fullerton Arboretum - 10:00am to 4:00pm
 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton (657) 278-3407

May 1 - 2

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society 50th Annual Show & Sale

Sacramento Garden and Art Center
 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento (530) 753-7011

May 1 - 2

Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room
 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City (310) 822-1783

May 2

South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale

South Coast Botanical Gardens - 9:00am to 4:00pm
 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes (310) 833-6823

May 15

Gates Cactus & Succulent Society

Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center - 9:00am to 4:00pm
 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Avon (909) 360-8802

Hospitality News

Sign up to bring refreshments and get a 4 inch plant!! You must sign the **Hostpitality 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

Espostoa

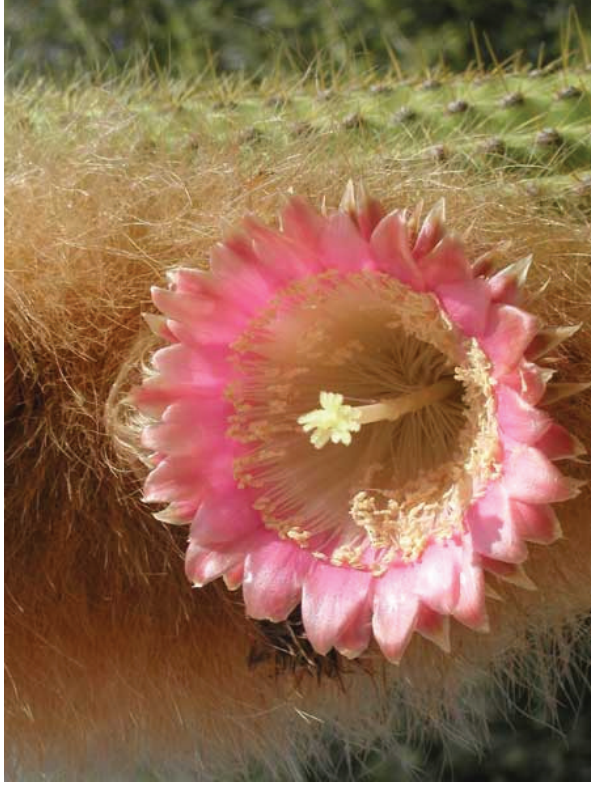
B & R (es-POS-toh-uh) For Nicolas Esposito, a Peruvian botanist.

The genus *Espostoa* consists of a dozen or so species from Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. They are columnar plants that mostly branch at the base to form a series of stems reminiscent of a big city skyline. The most notable feature of *Espostoa* is the presence in most species of dense, white "hair", which quite dramatically covers the stems giving them a soft, fuzzy appearance. This is just an illusion however, as underneath the soft hairs are numerous sharp spines arranged on many small ribs which circle the columns. In some species the main central spine extends well past the hair making their threatening presence obvious.

Another trait of *Espostoa* that is seen in sexually mature stems is the flower bearing lateral cephalium. This is an area along the sides of the stems that produces an especially dense wool and/or bristles out of which the flowers are born. These structures are brown, gray or white and look as if something was smeared along one side of the stem. The flowers produced are cup or bell shaped and are typically 1-2 inches (2.5-5cm) in diameter. Flowers are mostly white or rarely reddish and are nocturnal.

Several species of *Espostoa* are especially popular in cultivation due to their fuzzy white hairy appearance. The plants are typically sold by large commercial growers as 6-12 inch stems. However, being large columnar species, these plants do not grow nearly as vigorously in pots as they would in the ground. Plants tend to quickly fill the pots becoming pot bound and then growth slows to a crawl. As such, these plants rarely, if ever reach maturity meaning they don't produce the cephalium and subsequently do not flower. On the other hand, those in warmer climates that can plant the species directly in the ground may indeed have plants that form a nice grouping of stems that will eventually flower.

~cactiguide.com



Espostoa guentheri flower



Espostoa lanata