

On the Dry Side

MARCH 2013

CCCSS February Meeting Recap

2/10/2013

As always, President Charles Varni opened the regular monthly meeting of CCCSS by thanking the members who provided the snacks for our enjoyment (at the break, please) and then asked each of our many first-time visitors to introduce him- or herself. Each visitor and snack provider was shown our appreciation with a succulent. CCCSS enrolled TEN new members at the February meeting! Welcome, and know how proud we are of our vibrant and growing club.

Jim Harlow updated members about the trip to Lotusland. (See Wayne Mills' article about our trip elsewhere in On the Dry Side). Woody Minnich announced that Charles Spotts is retiring from the growing of (mostly) spiny plants and two auctions of Charles' plants will be held at his and Joanne's home on April 27 and a date in July to be determined. Stay tuned for further details. Gene Schroeder presented the Plant-of-the-Month portion of the meeting. This month's focus was on succulent bulbs, which coincided nicely with our featured speaker's presentation.

Several members brought in their surviving seedlings from our August hands-on planting of seeds. It is important to resist overwatering them, which can cause the seedlings to damp off. It was suggested that the seedlings be bottom-watered to avoid dislodging them, and you should wait to transplant them until they fill the small pot in which they were started. Rob Skillin described the raffle plants, and we took a break to enjoy the goodies. The Board has been requested to remind members to wait until the break before digging in. This will be greatly appreciated by the hard-working folks who provide us with treats and set up and clean up the food tables. Reminder: there is a jar for donations on the table.

Our featured speaker was (Jose) Ernesto Sandoval from U.C. Davis where he works with his passion: plants. He now lectures about his passion in addition to his research at the university. Ernesto recommended his Flickr website, South African Bulbs, and the Pacific Bulb Society website where you can find out everything you want to know about these bulbs that are loosely included with succulents; in South Africa, most bulbs are in the iris family. South Africa has a disproportionately large number of native plants to its area; there are 20,000 plant species in South Africa, about 5 percent of the world total, with about 1 percent of its land area. South Africa has a Mediterranean climate that is similar to that of San Luis Obispo. The plants are not annuals – their bulbs allow them to escape the summer heat. Ernesto recommended propagating bulbs using the "Ziploc bag" method we used in August, which included leaving them in a moist, closed bag until they germinate, then opening the bag gradually. He suggested not transplanting until the pot becomes crowded. Red lava dust was recommended as an amendment to clay soil. Bulbs need sun, and an interesting aside was that the cause of albuca leaves staying straight instead of curling is due to a lack of sun. A recommended book is Color Encyclopedia of Cape Bulbs. Ernesto's presentation was most enjoyable and since he particularly requested that we invite him to speak again, we can look forward to another presentation in the future.

~ Submitted by Carol Moss, Secretary

Lotusland Field Trip

by Wayne Mills

A large bus-full of CCCSS'ers enjoyed a wonderful outing to Madam Walescha's Lotusland on a bright and beautiful Saturday (February 16). The trip was beautifully organized by Jim Harlow with assistance from Terry and Rob Skillin who provided the breakfast snacks, 8 excellent raffle plants, water, and wine for the return trip. Needless to say, everyone arrived back at their cars a little tired, but a lot happy.



We had a "field day" exploring Sam Marcos growers after a nice tour given by the owner. Many people came home a few dollars poorer, (about \$1500 for the whole bus) and a lot of plants richer from the experience.



Dave again did a great job manhandling that big bus through some tight turns on the Montecito back roads, and got us to the nursery and to Lotusland and back without incident. I can't speak for the other groups, but our tour leader James (a recent graduate of the docent school, and a former actor and "Viagra man" (of commercial fame) did a fantastic job leading us around the fantastically groomed and maintained grounds of the Madam's (47 acre) estate.

There was something there for everyone's interest. Actually, I kind of enjoyed the Japanese Garden and the Grotesques.

The winners of the 8 "door-prize" plants were: Nancy Cooley, Carol moss, Joe Kelly, Susan Waidner, Harry Harlow, Von Fosman, and Betty Noel. The each took home a nice plant personally selected by Rob Skillin. Congratulations to you all. And thank you again to everyone involved in planning and executing this most excellent field trip.



LIBRARY NEWS.....by Gene Schroeder

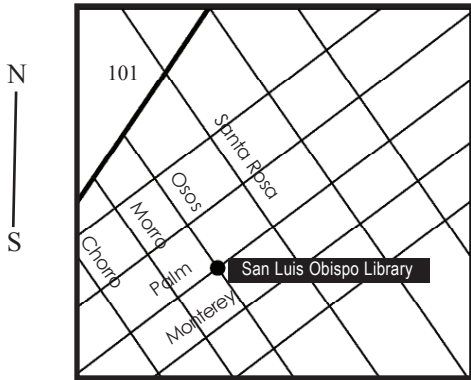
The library overhaul is coming along with the planned new changes to be complete by the end of March. There is one important duty left that requires some help from everyone.

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.

- 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 --SB
- Sanseveria, The Splendid, by B. Juan Chahinian – SB
- Succulent Success in the Garden, by Kapitany & Shulz – HB

NEXT MEETING:

Sun. March 10 at
2:00 pm



San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

Mike Bush

“Growing Succulent Plants in 100 in. Annual Rain” or

‘Singapore’s new Gardens by the Bay’



Mike Bush is the Director of the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. He grew up in St. Petersburg, FL and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Botany from the University of South Florida in Tampa in March 1976. He specialized in tropical biology, greenhouse management and tropical flora and conducted field studies in tropical Florida, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Ecuador and Mexico.

Following his first job after college at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, FL he headed botanical gardens in Oklahoma City, Bermuda, Charlotte, NC, and Santa Barbara (Lotusland) before working for the Government of Singapore on Gardens by the Bay.

He came to San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden as Executive Director in May, 2011. His passion is connecting people with gardens.

<http://slobg.org/>

<http://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/en/home.html>

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Our 7th Annual Show and Sale is coming up in May, and we are planning to commemorate it with a special T shirt, as we have done in years past.

Work up a design, bring it in to the April meeting, and the most popular design will be put on the shirt. For best results, keep your design simple and graphic so its easy to reproduce. Integrating the club’s name, the event name (7th annual Show and Sale), and possibly the date(2013) into the design would be a plus.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

2/10/2013

Following the general membership meeting on February 10, 2013, the board assembled for its meeting. The first order of business was the appointing of a member to fill the vacancy in the position of Member-at-Large. After discussion by the board, Harry Harlow was appointed to fill the position until the next election. It was suggested that Harry serve as a greeter at the entrance to provide information to first-time visitors.

Rob Skillin is in the process of forming a new committee for organization of the Seventh Annual Show and Sale over Memorial Day weekend. Most of last year’s committee members have agreed to serve on this year’s committee, and the committee would welcome any volunteers to join the committee. Contact Rob if you are interested. It is anticipated that the first meeting will be held before the end of February.

A tee-shirt design contest will be held again this year. WE NEED PARTICIPANTS, so get out your colored pencils. See the announcement elsewhere in this *On the Dry Side*.

An update on the ongoing controversy with Transfirst was given, and it appears that we have no way of avoiding the \$250 penalty.

The board discussed the possibility of sponsoring a summer field trip, with a number of destinations suggested. If you have an idea, please don’t hesitate to mention it to a board member.

Several suggestions were put forth for the board to consider, including a summer bonanza silent auction of members’ plants, a summer field trip or a tour of south county gardens, and donating to the CSSA in a future fiscal year.

Submitted by Carol Moss, Secretary

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!)

<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.

Haworthia links: <http://haworthia-gasteria.blogspot.com/2008/01/home.html>
NICE IMAGES---- <http://www.karacactus.com/haworthias01.htm>

The CCCSS Annual Show & Sale is right around the corner.
Start preparing your plants and get inspired with
Gene Schroeder’ photographs of the 2012 CCCSS Show & Sale.
<http://tinyurl.com/2012-CCCSS-Show>
(hit “slideshow” upper right corner)

PLANT OF THE MONTH

MARCH

BY MARKUS MUMPER

HAWORTHIA

Plantae / Angiosperms / Monocots / Asparagales / Xanthorrhoeaceae / Asphodeloideae [Angiosperm Phylogeny Group]

Named after Adrian Hardy Haworth (1767 – 1833) by Henri Duval in 1809, the genus Haworthia is most closely related to Aloe, Astroloba and Gasteria, other commonly collected plants. The sixty, or so, identified species (and seemingly innumerable varieties and cultivars) are mostly endemic to South Africa. These small, clumping plants are perfect for pot culture and are grown mostly for the shape and markings of the leaves and not their rather plain flowers.

These plants appreciate morning sunlight but should not be exposed to full sun all day long, rather shade or partial shade in the afternoon. With few exceptions, the growth period is April - November, interrupted by a 6 - 8 week summer rest from July to mid-August. In this period, which is generally sunny and warm, they cease growth above ground. However something is going on underground: Every year they renew their roots, using material from the old roots. This means that prolonged periods of wetness at the roots during this time can lead to rotting. Occasional spraying is fine during the rest period, but above all plenty of fresh air circulation should be provided. Otherwise, normal watering and feeding as per other leaf succulents will work. Some watering and spraying is also necessary in Winter, but this depends on the over-wintering temperature, with lows preferably 35F or greater and highs above 60F.

One great source of information is The Haworthia Society <http://www.haworthia.org/> in England – their publication is Haworthiad.

Like Lithops, the leaves of many Haworthias are fenestrate (translucent) which allows photosynthesis to take place away from the leaf surface, which in turn saves water.



Some favorite species are:



H. truncata is a stemless, slowly proliferous (pupping) species with leaves abruptly truncated (cut off) and arranged distichously (opposite each other). In nature it grows buried in the ground, just leaf tips are visible, in cultivation it tends to grow above the soil.

Very closely related to *H. truncata* is *H. maughanii* with similar properties but with cylindrical leaves arranged in a rosette. The really interesting plants have spectacular veining on the truncated leaf surface. These plants usually remain relatively small. They are especially prized by collectors and can be quite expensive.



H. emelyae has a more typical form but is also highly variable. If you give this plant some extra sun it can form deep red colors in the almost semi-transparent leaves.

Haworthia



H. limifolia



H. turgida 'Grey Ghost'



Haworthia cooperi



H. arachnoidea var. *scabrispina*

WHO THOUGHT UP THESE NAMES!?!

Did you ever wonder why a plant has a certain name? This month's Plant of the Month, Haworthia, will be used to demonstrate some basic Botanical Latin concepts. Here are a few tricks you may find handy.

If the species name ends in

- “-ensis” – it is named for a place. (*Haworthia heidelbergensis* ... found near Heidelberg, S. Africa)
- “-iana” or “-ana” –it is named for a person whose name ends in a vowel. (*H. comptoniana* ... for Professor R.H. Compton)
- Or “-i” – if the person was a male; “-ae” –if the person was a female. [*H. cooperi*... for Cooper; *H. emelyae* (literally “Emely’s haworthia”) for Emely Ferguson]

Other than a place or person to create a species name, the term used has some form of descriptive “stem” which is (relatively) unchanging. These botanical terms have different endings based on its “part of speech”(noun, adjective, participle, etcetera), gender (male, female, neuter), and singular/pleural.

Here are some examples of names with descriptive “stems”:

- *Haworthia truncata*- truncate means ends abruptly, “cut off”.
- *H. arachnoidea*- “cobwebby”, made by a spider. var. *scabrispina*- “rough to the touch” spines
- *H. turgida*- swollen with water
- *H. limifolia* - mud, leaves

For most of us botanical hobbyists, just knowing the basic meaning of the name of a plant will help us remember it. So, if we learn some of the unchanging “stems”, we can become more educated succulent hobbyists. Future articles will cover some common descriptive terms.


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".

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.

Please support our business members!

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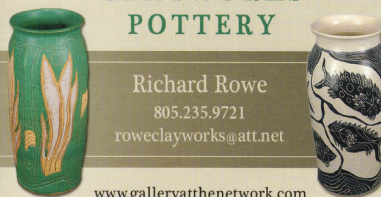
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Upcoming Events

March 22-24

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale. Sale Friday March 23: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday March 24: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. For information call: Lori Cox 562-587-3357. occss.org

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 27-28

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society 2013 Show & Sale. Jardines Restaurant Garden, San Juan Bautista. Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9-4pm.

April 28

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

May 4-5

Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale. Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95816. Info: 707-429-1054.

May 5

Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale. MacKenzie Park, Santa Barbara, CA, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Directions on Website: <http://www.sbcactus.org>

May 25 & 26

Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa (at Mill St), San Luis Obispo, CA. Info: <http://centralcoastcactus.org>

June 1-2

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale. Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. For information: 858-382-1797 <http://www.sdcss.net>

June 8-9

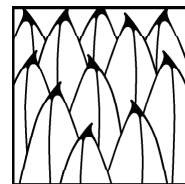
San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society Show & Sale. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park. Info: brianskemble@hotmail.com sfsucculent.org

June 8-9

Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show and Sale. Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA. Info: lacss.contact@gmail.com

June 15 to 20

CCSA 35th Biennial Convention. Austin, TX <http://CCSA2013.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.