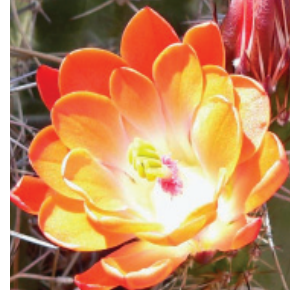
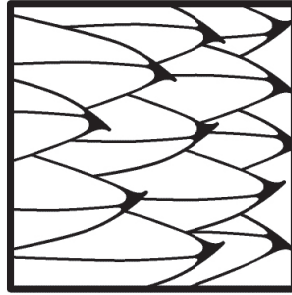


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Markus Mumper
780 Merced St.
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



On the Dry Side

May 2012

CCCSS April Meeting Recap

Our Easter Sunday meeting attendance was down from our usual large group, but we had an interesting and informative meeting anyway. President **Gene Schroeder** presided. Old business focused on the elections to be held during our May meeting on Mothers' Day, May 13. According to Vice President **Mary Peracca**, we have a full slate of nominees. Mary encouraged anyone interested in becoming a member of the Executive Board to contact her to have their name placed on the ballot. **Rob Skillin**, chairperson of the Show & Sale (S&S) Committee, reported on that committee's progress. A .pdf listing of plant categories will be available on our website. Entry cards for the various levels (Novice, Advanced and Open) will be available at the May meeting, along with more announcement cards and fliers to distribute in the community.

The plant of the month was *Stapeliads*, members of the milkweed family, which have star-shaped flowers, most of which are foul smelling to attract flies for its unique method of pollination. There are 25 – 30 valid genera names. These succulents thrive on benign neglect. When flowering begins on the new stems they can be watered sparingly. They enjoy dry heat and sunlight, in moderation. They need good drainage. *Hoodia* is a popular variety of *Stapeliad*.

The meeting included a t-shirt design contest to commemorate this year's S&S. The contest was won by **Nicole deVecchio** and the new shirts will be available for sale at the May meeting.

Jim Harlow is arranging a tour to The Huntington Botanical Garden's sale in San Marino on Saturday, June 30. Complete details will be discussed at the May meeting, but it is anticipated the bus will leave at 6:30 AM, we will spend 5 to 6 hours at the sale and return to SLO around 7:30 PM. Stay tuned.

Three of our resident experts – Rob, Gene and **Markus Mumper** -- led a discussion that focused on preparation for the S&S on May 26 and 27 at the Ludwick Center. Their No. 1 advice for winning is selecting show plants that are well grown. Secondary considerations are presentation and maturity (reminder: you must have had the entered plant for at least six months). The same plant can be entered year after year. If you don't know what your plant is, no worries: someone should be able to identify it for you. Consider entering plants that might not be well represented to increase your chances of taking a prize. Remember that you are only competing against entries in your class. Numerous awards will be given, so don't hesitate to enter your favorite plants. There will be a special prize for the best rookie entry by someone who has never entered a plant in the past. Rob also encouraged educational entries. See Rob if you are interested so that he can arrange for the appropriate award. People should be getting their plants ready – don't forget to bring them dry (not recently watered) to the S&S, free of insects and cleaned of debris. Diluted vinegar in a spray bottle is good for removing water spots. Small brushes are helpful in removing dead leaves. Decorative pots and top dressing can add to the presentation, but cutesy geegaws are discouraged – judges want to concentrate on the plant without distraction. Mineral oil can be applied to plastic and clay pots (both ARE appropriate) to improve the look, and the oil also removes "crud." Salt build-up on pots can be erased with pumice. The experts said that about 15 percent of judging is based on presentation (pot and dressing). Consistent, uniform growth is valued, versus visible changes based on light conditions. [Succulent Container Gardens](#) by **Debra Lee Baldwin** was recommended as a good resource. It is in our library, but checked out. It is available on Amazon.com.

~Submitted by Carol Moss

April Board Meeting Notes:

- Old Business: The Board discussed the upcoming election and possible candidates. The review of the By-Laws was put on hold until after the S&S. Future speakers were evaluated.
- New Business: A garden tour of North County gardens is in the initial planning stage. Anyone interested in sharing their garden, or with a suggestion for a garden, can contact a board member for consideration. Don't be shy! An update of the S&S Committee's progress was made and details were incorporated into the May meeting notes elsewhere in this newsletter.

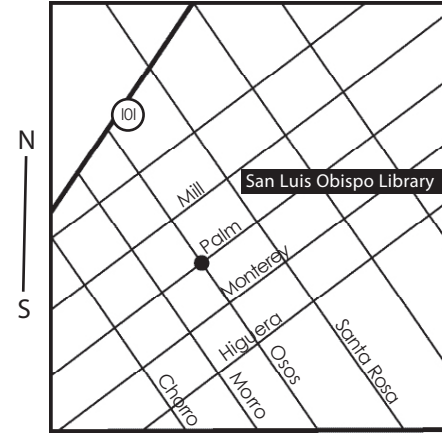
Upcoming Show & Sale:

The basic show schedule is as follows: On Friday, May 25, volunteers will set up the tables from 2 to 5 PM. Plants MUST BE delivered on Friday between 5 and 9 PM. Bring whatever props are necessary for your plant – saucer, stand, support, etc. On Saturday morning, judging will begin at 8 AM and should be finished by the start of the S&S at 10 AM. This year the entire gym will be devoted to sales, with the show and award tables in the adjoining rooms. There will be a Plant Hotel on the stage for storage of both paid and unpaid plants so folks can browse unimpeded. Special cash registers will be used which will speed up payment. On Sunday at 1 PM there will be an auction of show-quality plants. If you want to put a plant in the auction (25/75 split), see Nick Wilkinson. Volunteers are also needed for take-down and for other miscellaneous staffing needs. Contact Pat Gilson or sign up at the May meeting. **YOUR REWARD FOR VOLUNTEERING IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRE-SHOP AND PLACE YOUR SELECTIONS IN THE PLANT HOTEL.**



Echinocereus stramineus, Hedgehog Cactus

NEXT meeting:



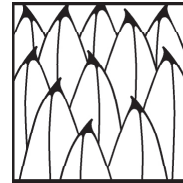
Sun. May 13 at
2:00 pm

San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

LAST YEAR'S TROPHY WINNERS

Please return your rotating plaque or trophy to Jan
Moon for use in this year's show and sale. Thank you!



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 Carol Moss 438-4906	CCSS 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.

Speakers of the Month

The Great American Southwest

Woody Minnich

No where in the world is there a more dynamic and picturesque region than that of the American southwest. This romantic and historical part of the USA is marked with drama from its indigenous peoples and landscapes, to its grandest plants and creatures. For the purpose of this title we are including the seven most cactus and succulent rich states; Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Utah.

In these seven states there is a wealth of endemic plants and animals. Along with these plants and animals, one will often encounter some amazing and beautiful scenery. Due to the fact that many of our cacti and succulents are found in these unique environments, their special characteristics are frequently developed for adaptation and survival in these harsh places. The geology in this general region is very often tortured and dramatic, and thus the plants, animals and scenery are frequently nothing short of breath taking!



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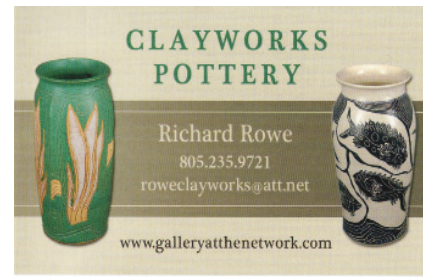


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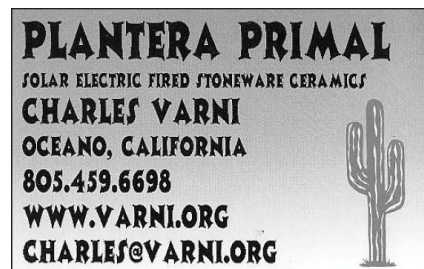
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Upcoming Events

May 12 - 13

San Diego Epiphyllum Society Annual Show & Sale

Balboa Park Botanical Gardens
Casa Del Prado, Rm. 101, Balboa Park, CA

May 18 - 19

Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Green Faire
7621 Granite Hill Dr., Riverside, CA

May 19 - 20

Carmichael Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael, CA

May 26 - 27

Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale.

Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa (at Mill St), San Luis Obispo, CA

June 2 - 3

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale.

Sierra Vista Mall; Shaw & Clovis Ave., Clovis, CA

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale.

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

June 9 - 10

Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Drought Tolerant Plant Show & Sale

Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA

June 29 - July 1

CCSS Annual Show & Sale

Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA

**Rob Skillin will have
show-worthy top dressing available
at the May meeting for a small
donation to the club.**

Plant of the Month – *Echinocereus*

Reprinted from the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter by Tom Glavich

Echinocereus is one of the earliest recognized genera of Cacti; first described in 1848 by George Engelmann from a plant collected in 1846 in what is now New Mexico. The type species (the first one found, and after which the genus is named) is *Echinocereus viridiflorus*, a widespread species with a distribution that ranges from Southern Wyoming, South Dakota, and Kansas to Eastern New Mexico. As the name suggests, it has brilliant green flowers. *Echinocereus* species can be found throughout the Western United States, and the range of species stretches through the American west and through Northern and Central Mexico to about Mexico City.

As might be expected from a genus covering such a large range, *Echinocereus* are extremely varied in form, ranging from nearly spineless green balls such as *E. knippelianus*, to very spiny short columnar species such as *E. engelmannii*, to pencil thin sticks such as *E. poselgeri*. Along with the variation in form, there is an enormous variation in natural environment, ranging from Northern Prairies, where the plants are hidden in grass, and regularly exposed to rain, snow and freezing temperatures, to Southern Baja, where the rains are seasonal, the plants more exposed to the sun, but never to really cold temperatures. Many of the species are quite variable, and exhibit different spination and flower colors depending on where they are found. As a result, a large number of species were named. These are being reduced to a more conservative 30 to 50 species.

Most *Echinocereus* have spectacular flowers, giving rise to such common names as Claret Cup, Strawberry Cactus, Calico Cactus. These common names are often attached to more than one species. *Echinocereus* flowers erupt through the skin, leaving scars. Offsets also erupt through the skin.

Almost all the species need strong light and warm temperatures to grow well and flower. Some are quite easy, but most have somewhat fragile root systems that are prone to rot. They often benefit from being slightly underpotted. Good drainage is a must.

Propagation from seed is fairly easy. Seed germinates in a few days to about two weeks in warm weather, as long as soil mixture is kept moist. Once germination occurs, the seedlings need to be moved to an environment with moving air. They need to be kept damp until they have hardened off.

Propagation from cuttings can be done, but particular attention needs to be paid to cleanliness. Use of Rootone, or another rooting compound containing a fungicide helps the success ratio.

Notable Species :

Echinocereus brandegeei - clustering, long needle like spines, medium sized pink flowers (from Baja California)

Echinocereus delaeii - spines are reduced to white hairs. Flowers are pink to purple, with a very obvious green stigma. One of the more difficult to grow. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

Echinocereus engelmannii - from the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico. A clumping species with stems 2 to 3 inches thick with generally light tan spines and rose like flowers.

Echinocereus knippelianus - dark green body, with slightly lighter ridges, nearly spineless, clustering, and slow. Lots of pale pink flowers. Sensitive to over watering. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

Echinocereus nivosus - has dense white needle like spines, with a dark green body. It clumps freely, and has large pink flowers, with bright green stamens. If this plant wasn't natural, it would be in bad taste. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

Echinocereus poselgeri - was formally *Wilcoxia poselgeri*, and is one of several tuberous rooted species that have above ground pencil thin stems. They have bright pink flowers, and make an odd sight and an interesting addition to any collection. (from Texas, Coahuila, Mexico)

Echinocereus rigidissimus - columnar, with bands of red, pink and cream spines. A classic, and a frequent show winner. Every collection ends up with one sooner or later. (from Arizona, New Mexico, Northern Mexico)

Echinocereus schmollii - like *E. poselgeri*, was once a *Wilcoxia*. It has wider stems, and larger flowers.

Echinocereus sharpii - discovered in 1971 by club member Peter Sharp near La Asencion in Nuevo Leon, is one of the more difficult to grow, and infrequently seen in cultivation.

References:

N. L. Britton & J. N. Rose, [The Cactaceae](#)
C. Innes and C. Glass, [Cacti](#)
J. Pilbeam, [Cacti for the Connoisseur](#)
Cullmann, Gotz & Groner, [The Encyclopedia of Cacti](#)
S. and L. Brack, [Mesa Garden Seed List](#), January 1998



Echinocereus with bee

2012 CCCSS Show and Sale - Sponsored Awards

This year there will be 18 sponsored awards, listed below. Sponsorship costs \$25, and entitles the contributor to be listed in the Show Schedule. The contribution covers the cost of the award (a large rosette), plus, will help the club rent additional space in the front of the facility to reduce pressure in the sales area.

Contact Rob Skillin before April 20 if you wish to be a Sponsor. 709-3033 or rskillin@gmail.com
Sponsors who have already committed are shown below – thanks!

Help make this year's Show and Sale a success - sponsor an award!

AWARD	SPONSOR
Best Baja Native	Grow Nursery
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Best Collection	Mary Harlow
Best Rookie Entry	Kathy Matsuyama
Best Staged Entry	Grow Nursery
Best Crested Entry	Pat Gilson
Best Euphorbia	Christy Keeling
Best Mesemb	
Best Chihuahuan Desert Cactus	Rob Skillin
Best Crassulaceae	
Best Gymnocalycium	
Best Mammillaria	Carol Moss
Best Agavaceae	Loring Manley
Best Echeveria	Wayne Mills
Best Haworthia	Maggie & Marcus
Best Sansevieria	
Best Dish Garden	
Best Aloaceae	Ken & Ann Byrne

Show and Sale Auction:

This year's sale will feature an auction of specimen plants on Sunday at 1:00. If you are interested in placing a plant in the auction, contact Nick Wilkinson.