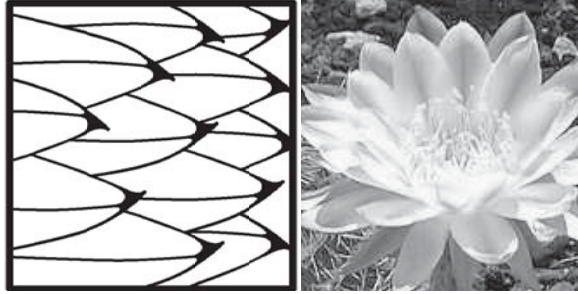


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Nick Wilkinson, Editor
1719 14th Street
Los Osos, CA 93402



On the Dry Side

November 2008

Inside this issue —

- Upcoming Speaker
- Upcoming Events
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- Plant of the Month:
Mesembryanthemum

October Meeting Recap

CCCSS Meeting Recap October 12, 2008

Two new books were donated to our library! Thank you Gene Schroeder for *Cacti*, by Wilhelm Barthlott, and thank you Marie Anne Werner, for the newly published *Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada*, by Stephen Ingram. Check them out from our library! A wide selection of raffle plants were introduced by Rob Skillin and Markus Mumper shared his very unusual *Eriospermums* for the plant of the month discussion. *Eriospermums* are winter growers from Sub-Saharan Africa and are the only genus in the *Eriospermaceae* family. Our speaker of the month was Ernesto Sandoval, curator of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. His engaging presentation focused on growing succulents in pots and in the ground. He discussed factors that affect growth, such as temperature, soil, nutrients, oxygen, and water. The ideal temperature for roots is 70 degrees. Soil mixture should drain well and be composed of one part each peat, sand and redwood compost, and two parts pumice. The soil should be slightly acidic. Nutrients are given ¼ strength every third watering, or time-release fertilizer every three months. Fast draining soil ensures essential oxygen to roots. Avoid saturation of water in the root zone of potted plants by choosing pots that have narrow bases, and let plants dry out between watering. Clay and wood containers are preferred because they insulate soil and roots from heat. Growing succulents in a (properly prepared) garden bed ensures more vigorous succulent growth than in containers. Mound your beds and mix in plenty of small lava rock to ensure good drainage. Mr. Sandoval's photographs of succulent beds he created at UC Davis were inspiring! His presentation was excellent! We'd love to have him return and inspire us again!

-Eva Zayha



Mark Muradian

Bolivia

The speaker for November is scheduled to be Mark Muradian with a presentation on Bolivia.

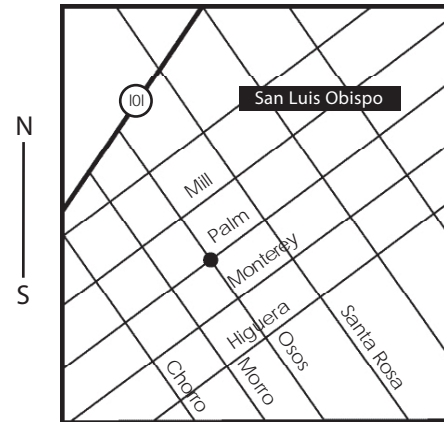
Mark is a third generation fruit and grape farmer in the Fresno, California area. He has been interested in cacti and other succulents for over twenty years. Twelve years ago he started to produce his own pottery for his plants. Mark will bring a variety of his pottery pieces with him for sale this Sunday!

Yvonne Putman -

On October 20, 2008 we lost one of our members, Yvonne Putman. Yvonne dearly loved succulents & the club. She was always there whenever we needed her, whether to supply refreshments at the monthly meetings or help at the annual show. She read her CCCSS news letter every month and when I saw her a few days before she left us, she told me she had read about the birth of Nick & Kara's son. She was so excited about the baby and wished she had been able to see him. If you had the opportunity to know Yvonne as I did, you will remember her smile & her ever present sense of humor. She will be missed.

Pat Gilson

NEXT meeting:

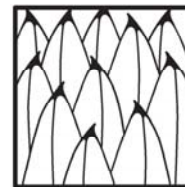


Sun, Nov. 9th
at 2:00 pm
SLO Public Library
(large room)
995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo
805-781-5991

next.....

BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on Nov. 9th right after our General Meeting. As always, 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 Mary Peracca 550-6977	VICE PRESIDENT Charles Spotts 237-2054	SECRETARY Eva Zahya 546-8202	CCSA AFFILIATE Rob Skillin 473-0788	TREASURER Edie Price 489-8491
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A one time free newsletter will be shipped out to those who sign in at the monthly meetings. After this dues must be paid in order to continue this service.


Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



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**The
 Clayworks**

Upcoming Events _____

DEC 14 **CHRISTMAS POTLUCK:** At this November's meeting we will be circulating sign-up sheets for the Christmas Potluck. Sign-up categories will be: appetizer, bread, side dish, main dish, desert and beverage. If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to attend the potluck please contact Maggie Wagner [773-1499, borispoppy@yahoo.com] or Pat Gilson [481-5596, hupt74@att.net] to see what food or beverage items are needed. The CCCSS will provide plates, napkins and utensils.

NOV 8-9 San Gabriel Valley C & S Society Show and Sale
 Los Angeles County Arboretum
 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA

DEC 6-7 Orange County Show and Sale
 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton, CA
 10:00am to 4:00pm, 714-870-4887

APR 10-15 CSSA 2009 Biennial Convention
 Westin La Paloma Hotel, Tucson, AZ
 Go to www.cssainc.org for more information.

hospitality news:

Thanks to Merodie Nelson, Melany Shapiro, Helen Sherry and Alice Cushing for providing last meeting's treats.

This month Vel Smith, Kathy Masuyama and Tracy & Steve Kipp will host.

If your interested in providing a snack for future meetings please sign up at the front desk or contact Maggie Wagner, 773-1499 or Pat Gilson, 481-5596.

CCCSS Library

CCCSS now has a library of books that can be checked out by CCCSS members. You will find the most updated list of books available for check out at each meeting. Please contact librarians Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanysz, 544-5389, for more information and availability.

* Any book lost or damaged will require a replacement fee.

Mesembryanthemum L.

Division: Spermatophyta

Class: Magnoliophyta

Order: Caryophyllales

Family: Aizoaceae(?)



Me-sem-bri-an'thee-mum. common Genus name: Fig-Marigold. Originally, the fig-marigolds made up a huge genus but over the past 100 years they have been divided into many separate genera. The Genus *Mesembryanthemum* (maybe) now contains the original species, described by Linnaeus, and zero to 50 or more other species depending on whom you cite.

The leaves are generally alternate or opposite, nearly cylindrical, some covered with glistening "crystals". Flowers are usually large, showy and daisylike because of the great number of petals and stamens which are mostly white, yellow or red. The calyx is tubular, with 4-5 rather leafy lobes.

Common to South Africa, *Mesembryanthemum* can be translated into English as "mid-day flowering"; most members flowering only during the afternoon in bright light.

To paraphrase from Wikipedia: "*Mesembryanthemum* is a member of the family Aizoaceae; many members of this Family are characterized by long lasting flower heads. Flowers of *Mesembryanthemum* protect their pollen from night-time dews or frosts and only open in sunlight. There is obviously an evolutionary advantage for doing this; when sun, dew, frost, wind or predators may damage exposed reproductive organs, closing may be advantageous during times when flowers are unlikely to attract pollinators".



I have to admit that before writing this note I thought the word *Mesemberanthemum* (or more precisely: *Mesembryanthemaceae*) described a Family of plants. *Faucaria*, *Gibbaeum*, *Glottiphyllum*, *Lithops*, *Pleiospilos*, *Ruschia*,, etc., all being "mesembs".

But, *Desert-Tropicals*, a useful if not always up-to-date source of information, recognizes only one plant for the Genus *Mesembryanthemum* - *M. crystallinum* L. (ice plant) - belonging to the family Aizoaceae.

Meanwhile, the website "aluka", a seemingly impressive database of African plants, shows *Mesembryanthemaceae* as a valid Family name and *Mesembryanthemum* as a valid Genus name with hundreds of species.

And still other sources give equally contradictory information.

Anyway - without getting too much into it, this again goes to show that the naming and identification of plants is an ever evolving practice.

On to practical terms - these plants, mostly, are not demanding and fairly easy to grow. So much so that some have been designated invasive weeds. Use of a typical free draining succulent mix along with letting the plants dry between regular waterings should do the trick. As a generalization they are frost tolerant and can take temperatures down into the twenties as long as they are not too wet.

Please, if you have thoughts on what is and what is not a Mesemb, bring it up at our next meeting.

