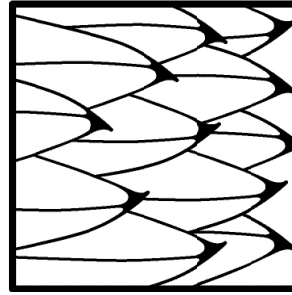


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Markus Mumper
780 Merced St.
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



On the Dry Side

November 2009

Inside this issue —

- Upcoming Speaker - Rob Skillin
- Upcoming Events - Shows & Sales
- Return library books!
- Plant of the Month - Othonna

CCCSS October Meeting Recap

Our club is growing, which is great but we need to have some new blood on our board. We are looking for some new officers, so think about helping out and become a board member!

Our President, Mary Peracca, welcomed a few new guests this month, which along with the fine folks that brought snacks received a new plant.

Remember if you haven't signed up for our Lotus Land field trip, there are a few spaces left. The trip will be Nov. 14th so call Terry Skillin ASAP if interested at 473-0788.

The Board is starting to prepare for the Dec. potluck/auction. This is a fun gathering with great food and some great plants for auction. This is one not to miss, so mark your calendars for Dec. 13th. We will be accepting donations of high quality plants and more information and food sign-ups will be addressed at our next meeting.

Our librarian Jeanie has purchased some new books for our library which should be in by Nov. These books will soon be listed on our website and one may reserve them through the website www.centralcoastcactus.org.

Another great selection of raffle plants this month. A beautiful *Adenia glauca* & *Fockea edulis* were two of the beautiful specimens up for grabs.

Our plant of the month was South African bulbs. To give us his expertise on these was Tom Glavich from The San Gabriel Valley C&S Society and also the editor of "To The Point!" articles in the CSSA Journal. What a treat to have Tom here again to share great photos and information on these beautiful and unusual bulbs.

Tom gave us a wonderful presentation on *Amaryllis*, *Iris* and *Hyacinth* genus. These bulbs are easy to grow, most with a Spring bloom, but don't like to be disturbed once they are established. If disturbed, they won't bloom for a few years. Basic rules for the bulbs, water when green, when they are not, don't water.

Thanks to Tom for a very informative presentation and see you at the Nov. meeting.
~Jan



THE SUCCULENT KAROO

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH:

Rob Skillin

The Succulent Karoo

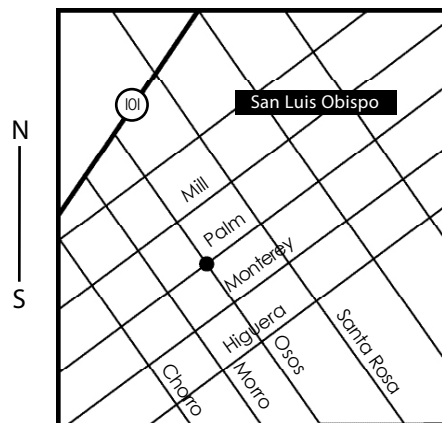
In south-western Africa, the Succulent Karoo ("dry place") is a relatively narrow band of habitat stretching along the coastal regions from southern Namibia into South Africa, and then extending inland in an easterly direction from Cape Town. It contains an astonishing abundance and diversity of succulents and bulbs. This program highlights many of the sub-regions of the Succulent Karoo, such as the Richtersveld, Namaqualand, and the Little Karoo, and features succulents from the many plant families found there. Also included is a discussion of the topography and climate, as well as some of the culture aspects of growing southern African plants.

NEXT meeting:

Sun, Nov. 8'th at
2:00 pm

SLO Public Library

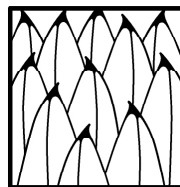
995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo
805-781-5991



Namaqualand in South Africa with Othonna in bloom

BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on November 8'th right after our General Meeting. As always all members are welcome.

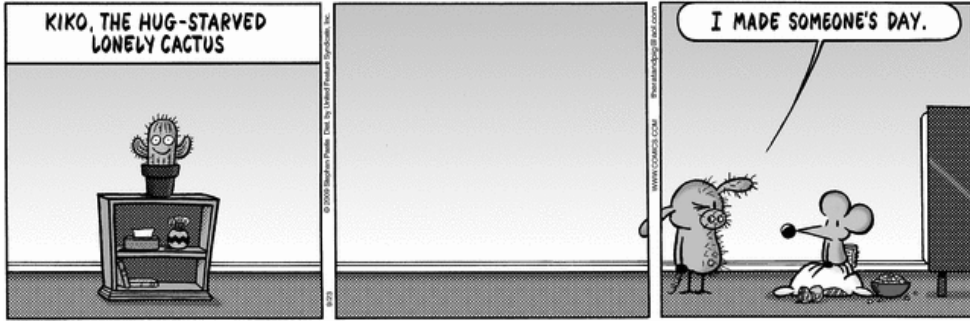


Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
e-mail: markusmumper@gmail.com

All submissions to the CCCSS newsletter must be submitted two weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

PRESIDENT Mary Peracca 550-6977	VICE PRESIDENT Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	SECRETARY Eva Zayha 546-8202	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 Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanyasz 544-5389	HOSPITALITY Maggie Wagner, 773-1499 Pat Gilson, 481-5596

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 continue this service.



Upcoming Events _____

November 7-8

San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia 626-798-2430

December 5-6

Orange County Show & Sale

Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 714-870-4887

Lotusland Field Trip _____

Our bus has one empty seat as of this date! Yeah! This will be a great trip. Our surprise second stop will be at Terra Sol, a full service nursery in Go-lieta. Owner Mike Tilly is an avid plant collector, and sells over 40 varieties of Agave. He is even going to bring out some additional succulent goodies especially for our group. Lunch stop after Lotus land is still being planned, but we will hopefully be able to park and find several spots from which you can choose to eat. You are also welcome to bring a bag lunch if you wish. November 14 is quickly approaching! See you at the meeting!
*questions? Call Terry at 473-0788

CCCSS Website _____

Don't forget to visit our club's website:

www.centralcoastcactus.org

Special thanks to Webmaster Rick Smith of Panorama Studios.

Hospitality News _____

Thanks to all the members who brought food, treats and drink to last month's meeting - Pat Gilson, Valrea Smith and Velma Stricker - It is always appreciated.

This month Linda Drahos, Lucy Manrique and Eva Zayha will host.

If you're interested in providing a snack for future meetings please sign up at the front desk or contact Pat Gilson, 481-5596.

Great 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

Library Books

Please return all library books at our November meeting! Martin and Jeanne will be taking an inventory of our club's books.

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Richard Rowe
potter / artist

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Cambria, CA 93428
P 805 924 1340

roweclayworks@att.net

**The
Clayworks**

Othonna

Othonnas are found within the Asteraceae family (Compositae). Othonnas are quite diverse and range from succulent shrubs with pachycaul stems, geophytes with underground tubers, and stem succulent caudiciforms. This genus of more than 100 species are confined to mainly the winter rainfall areas of Southern Africa, in the Northern and Western Cape, as well as the south-western section of Namibia. The bright yellow (occasionally purple) flowers are the most distinguishing characteristic of the genus. The flowering times differ from different species, some flower just before beginning their summer rest and others flower after beginning growth in the fall. Most species are leaf succulents with terete or round leaves and are deciduous during the dry season.

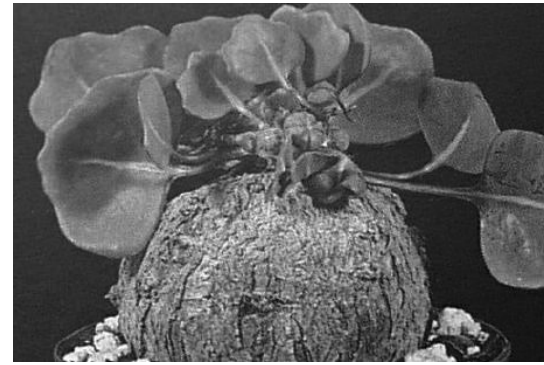
Othonnas have a variable range of habitats, some grow in very hot, arid regions, but they avoid the intense desiccating rays of the north and west sun growing between rocks in southern slopes. A few species, by contrary, grow in strong direct sunlight in arid situations that become very hot and dry as well as water saturated for a few weeks during their growing period.

All Othonnas grow in very open situations with plenty of free air circulation. Othonnas tend to be fairly hardy but some of them, such as *Othonna cacaloides*, can be extremely difficult in cultivation. Their active Winter growing months are from early fall through late spring when water must be given generously not allowing the plants to dry completely. Give as much sun as possible in Winter and protect from frost.

In the warmer months Othonnas go into their dormancy period; stop watering and place them in a shaded, cool area of the greenhouse away from direct sunlight and with good air circulation, keep relatively dry. In the Fall, sometime around early to mid October when nights cool down, the plants may start growing on their own, but a good soaking will help them to leaf out. A typical succulent soil mix should be suitable but additional drainage material would be recommended.

Othonna seeds can easily be produced in cultivation provided that the conditions conducive to production of healthy flowers are observed. Seeds should be sown in a sandy mixture and be just covered with a thin layer of silt. The seeds germinate best when sown during the cold weather and will take from several days to two weeks after sowing, but germination continues for about two months. The initial growth of Othonna seedlings is very rapid. When they enter dormancy, the young plants should be kept completely dry until the following growing season.

~africansucculents.com



Othonna hederifolia



Othonna retrorsa



Othonna wrinkleana



Typical Othonna flower



Othonna cheirifolia as a landscape plant