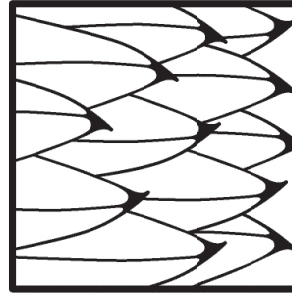


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Markus Mumper
780 Merced St.
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



On the Dry Side

November 2010

Inside this issue: CCCSS October Meeting Recap

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Tim Harvey was our Speaker of the Month. His subject was Geraniaceae from Namibia and South Africa in Habitat and Cultivation. Basically - Geraniums. He had some very good in-habitat shots of his adventures in Africa.

Of great interest were Tim's observations regarding pot versus in-ground culture. Tim lives in the Thousand Oaks area of Southern California where he can grow some frost sensitive plants in the ground. He says he can do this because he has created raised beds which promote good drainage while at the same time providing insulation from temperature extremes. He thinks that these same plants would not do so well in pots where the roots could get burnt in the Summer and be more susceptible to rot in the Winter because of colder soil conditions.

Along the same theme Tim brought up the water drainage differences between tall, narrow pots and wide, shallow pots. Contrary to what might be called intuition, a taller pot of the same diameter will drain and dry out more quickly than a wider pot of the same height. His analogy (a good one) was a rectangular soaked sponge. When laid flat on the counter only so much water will drain out. When stood on the long side some more water will drain and when then placed on the short side even more water will drain. This is due to the cohesive properties of the water molecules counteracting the gravitational forces - I'm pretty sure.

Other items:

- **No library books will be available for check out in November and December. Please return all books at the November meeting to allow us to inventory our book collection. Thank you.**

- **Christmas Party Sign-Up Sheets! The Christmas Dinner and Auction is coming up soon. Pat will have sign-up sheets for bread, salad, entree, vegetable, desert and drink. Please have a category in mind and don't be shy. Pat will have particulars at the meeting.**

Pat can be contacted at our next meeting, or at 481-5596 or hupt74@att.net.

Speakers of the Month _____

**Gene Schroeder, Rob Skillin, Charles Spotts,
Nick Wilkinson and Markus Mumper**

If you have questions regarding:

- Winter and Summer growers
- Wintering your collection
- Plant dormancy
- Growing mediums
- Watering
- Fertilizer
- Anything else.....

CCCSS club members will be ready with answers regarding the care of your cacti and other succulents

Except maybe genus and species pronunciations. The question: is *Aloe* pronounced 'alō' or 'alōē' is not asked in polite company!

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEC. LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

Live Auction:

We will be handling the live auction as we did last year - if you would like to place a plant in the Live Auction and receive 75% of the winning bid (the club takes 25%), contact Rob Skillin at 473-0788 no later than December 1st. There will be fewer plants in the Live Auction this year to make it go faster, and plants will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis until all spaces are filled. We are looking for high quality, show-worthy plants – a picture would be appreciated.

Silent Auction:

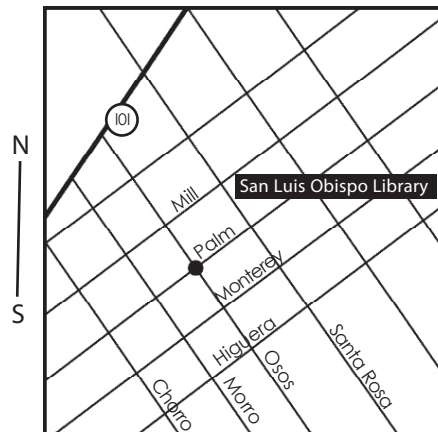
For the Silent Auction, we are looking for donations of both plants and plant-related items. If you have good quality material and would like to help the club by placing it in the Silent Auction, just bring it to the December meeting and there will be bidding forms available to fill out with information about your item (name of item, starting bid).

NEXT meeting:

Sun, Nov. 14th
at 2:00 pm

San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

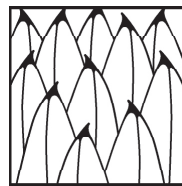


NEWS FROM THE SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING:

- Gene Schroeder proposes an open board meeting to discuss new officer and board member positions and growth for our club - date to be announced [repeat].
- Nick is proposing new T-shirts with our club logo [repeat].
- The potluck Christmas Party and Auction are coming up - we need sign up sheets for the next meeting.
- Nick (V.P.) and Jeannie (Librarian) would like to step down, new candidates are encouraged.

BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on November 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 Wayne Mills 481-3495	LIBRARIANS Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanyasz 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!
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**The
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Ben Trogon ©

EL CHOYERO SPEAKS :

Question: El Choyero, is Aloe pronounced 'alō' or 'alōē'?

Answer: Hola Amigos and Amigas!

Oh mijo - I am so glad that you have asked this question!

Some hombres take the pronunciation of formal plant names very importantly. I have seen people fighting. One shouts 'sanseveria' while the other shouts back 'san-severia, su madre'. It is muy loco!

Some people say it does not matter how you the names pronounce. These people are stupid. Or maybe they are not.

El Choyero - who is not so good at the saying of the names will try and answer this question.

The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature creates the rules for the naming of the plants. This group has not determined how these names should be said out loud though.

Their site on the internets is:
<http://ibot.sav.sk/icbn/main.htm>

Plant, and animal names, are more of a consistent written language than a spoken one. If you travel to another country they may say the names differently but they are always spelled the same, never different.

The only rule El Choyero has in the saying of the names is that every letter, and vowel, should be said.

So si señor, it is 'alōē', but be ready to be punched in the face when you say it that way.

Upcoming Events

November 6 - 7

San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Los Angeles County Arboretum - 9:00am - 5:00pm
 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia (626) 798-2430

December 3 - 5

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Fullerton Arboretum - 9:00am - 5:00pm
 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton, CA (714) 267-4329 or (714) 870-4887

April 24 - 29, 2011

Cactus and Succulent Society of America's 34th Biennial Convention

Mission Valley Marriot Hotel
 8757 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego, CA www.cssainc.org

May 7 - 8, 2011

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society 51st Annual Show & Sale

Sacramento Garden and Art Center
 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento CA (530) 753-7011 nedmar@aol.com

May 20 - 21, 2011

Gates Cactus & Succulent Society's 36th Show & Sale

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

June 30 - July 3, 2011

Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Annual Show & Sale

Huntington Botanical Gardens - 9:00am - 4:00pm
 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA (626) 405-2160

July 23 - July 30, 2011

XVIII International Botanical Congress

1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Victoria 3006 Australia
<http://www.ibc2011.com/>

Hospitality 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

Pachypodium (Greek - *pachy* [thick], *podium* [foot])

Pachypodium is a genus of about twenty to twenty four species in the large Apocynaceae family. This family consists of over 175 genera and includes such familiar plants as the periwinkle, oleander, and frangipani. Like all species in this family - *Pachypodium* sap is poisonous to live stock and humans. *Adenium* is the only other succulent genus in this family.

The majority are from Madagascar with some from southern Africa. The usually bottle-shaped trunk is typically solitary and wide. They range from small (*P. brevicaule*), to eighteen to thirty foot tall 'trees' (*P. lamerii* and *P. geayi*). The taller species are armed with stout paired spines and topped with a palm like rosette of long leaves (hence the common name 'Madagascar Palm' for some).

Pachypodium make use of spinescence as an adaptive mechanism to the local environment. Spinescence is employed to different degree in various species to collect and drip to the ground moisture from fogs and dews. A superficial root system will often develop to take advantage of this source of moisture.

They will grow well indoors on a sunny window sill, outdoors during the warmer summer months with regular watering or in a greenhouse where temperature and water can be controlled all year round. Some like *P. lamerii* and *P. geayi* can grow up to a foot per year. Give them regular water in the warm summers as long as they are growing in a free draining soil mix. Under watering during a warmer growing period can lead to leaf loss. Reduce water in the Winter and avoid any frost.



P. brevicaule



P. rosulatum



P. geayi



P. densiflorum

OLD JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES:

Carol and Joe Wujcik have very generously donated past issues of [Desert Plant Life](#) and [Desert Magazine](#) to the CCCSS. One article: [Notes from Kew Gardens](#) (London, England) dated January, 1941 follows:

Notes from KEW GARDENS

It has been difficult to restrain imagination when bombing reports have come from cities whose botanical gardens have meant so much to students the world over. More than once we have been asked and have in turn asked what is happening "over there" to the Royal gardens at Brussels, the botanic gardens of Kiel, Berlin and Kew.

We know valuable contents of museums, libraries and art galleries have been removed to regions of safety. Children, yes, even family pets have been transported to neutral countries; factories are established underground and gold treasure dug deeply below the surface.

These safeguards could not be applied to rare plants or trees of great age. So their fate has never concerned us. The following excerpts from a Kew Gardens communication presents the picture in part. Locally the reference to Mrs. Hoyt's cactus house will prove interesting.

Until recently very much damage had not been suffered, as the big bombs which fell were in the far parts of the gardens. One fell at the north end of the rhododendron dell where it rooted up a few ordinary rhododendrons and made a huge crater. Two others fell in grassy spots and made craters 25 feet across but did no other damage while the oil and incendiary bombs fell on lawns in various places and did no particular harm.

A few days later six smaller bombs were dropped. These damaged a good many trees. Some three weeks ago, however, a bomb fell on a house in the Kew road and much glass was broken in museum number one and in the orchid houses, the Sherman-Hoyt house, and other places. A bomb which fell on the other side of the river caused a good deal of damage to the herbarium, as the blast broke about 100 panes of glass in the middle wing.

The worst damage unfortunately took place about a week ago when a bomb fell in early morning in front of a house in the Kew road near the north gallery. The blast from this blew down 60 yards of the boundary wall and did much damage to the north gallery and the two adjoining houses in the gardens. The pictures in the north gallery, however, had all been removed previously to a place of safety. The blast from this bomb also smashed thousands of panes of glass on the east side of the temperate house and, as it may be impossible to repair the damage many choice specimens will perish, if there be a severe winter. About the same time another bomb fell between the palm house and the azalea garden and destroyed a number of interesting trees in the ash collection. The blast also smashed many hundred panes of glass in the palm house itself and in the water lily house. Here, again, it will be very difficult to make repairs and save some of the unique plants but it is hoped that it will be possible to make sound the southern end of the palm house where magnificent cycad specimens are housed. On the evening of the same day three bombs fell again near the temperate house, one in the Heath garden where many interesting Chinese rhododendrons, arbutus and other plants were smashed to atoms. The blast from this bomb

These notes continued for a couple more paragraphs. And we think that we are crazy plant people! Hard to believe that this was written less than seventy years ago.