

# On the Dry Side

NOVEMBER 2012

## CCCSS October Meeting Recap

10/14/2012

President **Charles Varni** presided over the October meeting and began by greeting our first-time visitors. The members who brought our snacks were rewarded with a free plant, as were our visitors. Charles announced that **Pat Gilson**, who is always there when you need a reliable helper, had hip replacement surgery several days before our meeting and used that as an excuse to miss her first meeting ever. We all wish Pat a speedy recovery. Charles mentioned that the Open Studios Tour will be going on in October and that several CCCSS members are participating. Newsletter Editor **Terry Excell** said that some CCCSS emails are being directed to some members' spam email folder ... please check to make sure you can receive the club's emails. **Jim Harlow** outlined the details of the upcoming club-sponsored (and club-subsidized) tour to Santa Barbara on Saturday, February 16, 2013. The first stop will be at a wholesale nursery, San Marcos Growers (special arrangements will be made for members who want to purchase plants), followed by lunch, probably at a restaurant. We will then have a two-hour guided tour of Lotusland beginning at 1:30 p.m. The tour will be limited to the first 46 members who send \$25 to Jim Harlow to reserve a seat. If any seats remain after the initial offering, the tour will be opened to guests. The Executive Board authorized a generous subsidy, resulting in the bargain price of \$25 for the complete tour, including the bus, admission to Lotusland, and raffle plants.

After completing the month's administrative matters, we moved on to the educational portion of our meeting. **Dr. Charles Spotts** (Ph.D. in microbiology), presented the Plant-of-the-Month discussion on **Copiapoa**, a cactus that currently has about 13 defined species and is named for the province of Copiapoa in Chile. Please refer to Dr. Spotts' article in the October newsletter. After discussing **Copiapoa**, we had a presentation of the Brag Table plants - with many beauties brought in by "Snake" - and a description of the plants in the raffles.

**Maggie Wagner** introduced our speaker, **Todd Masilko**. Both a photographer and a gardener, Todd had a unique opportunity to travel to Cuba legally for the 2012 Biennial Congress of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study. He shared with us many of the photographs he took in Cuba, where he traveled the island from one end to the other. We saw pictures of plants native to Cuba, along with images of the country's colonial architecture and still-running vintage American automobiles.

- Submitted By **Carol Moss**, Secretary

C C C S S

E - NEWSLETTER



**Plant of the month**  
**Aloes of Madagascar**



*A. bellatula*



*A. calcarifolia*



*A. haworthioides*



*A. deltoideodonta candicans*

## WEBSITES

[http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/browse\\_imgs/plant.html](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!)

[www.sacredsucculents.com](http://www.sacredsucculents.com) --This is a mail-order nursery near the coast. It also has ethnobotanical information. They offer seeds and plants of items not available elsewhere.

<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.

<http://www.cssainc.org/> Cactus and Succulent Society of America

<http://tinyurl.com/2012-CCCSS-Show> Gene Schroeder' photographs of the 2012 CCCSS Show & Sale (check out his other wonderful succulent photos)

# PLANT OF THE MONTH- NOVEMBER

## Pot Friendly Aloes of Madagascar

BY CHARLES SPOTTS

Aloes are leaf succulents ranging in size and habit from small stemless rosettes to stem-rosettes, to large shrubs and even to tall trees. They are characterized by their distinctive flower structure: the individual flowers are small and tube-like, borne in inflorescences often consisting of dozens to hundreds of brightly colored red, yellow, and sometimes white flowers. In habitat they are commonly pollinated by sunbirds, but when grown in our region they are favorites of hummingbirds.

Aloes constitute a huge genus of more than 450 recognized species (and perhaps an equal number of proposed species) occurring throughout most of Africa south of the Sahara Desert, in the Arabian Peninsula, on Madagascar, and on several islands in the Indian Ocean. They are found from the arid deserts of western Africa and Arabia to the winter rainfall areas of southeastern Africa, on the islands of the Indian Ocean, and from coastal lowlands to mountainous terrain. New species are constantly being discovered as remote regions are investigated. A comprehensive review of all currently known species is found in "Aloes, the Definitive Guide" by Carter, Lavranos, Newton, and Walker, 2011.

The classification of aloes is under constant revision: in past years they were regarded as members of the Lily family, where you will find them discussed in many of the older books. This family has been divided into more defined families and in current literature the aloes may be found discussed as their own family, the Aloaceae, which includes also Gasteria and Haworthia, or as members of the Asphodelaceae, a larger family group which also includes Bulbine.

This month's presentation is limited to the small aloes endemic to the island of Madagascar. Madagascar is home to over 126 distinctive endemic species of aloes, many of which are highly localized. There are more than 50 small stemless forms which can be easily grown in containers as well as several small prostrate or short stemmed forms which form nice pot plants when young. Madagascar is an island of temperate climate; it usually does not get warmer than 80F and seldom drops below 50F, even in the mountainous interior. The southeast coast has summer rainfall with relatively dry winters; the southwest coast has little rainfall, essentially all during the summer; accordingly, these plants can be treated as summer growers-- they should be kept dry in the winter. They need plenty of light. In temperate climates they may be grown outdoors in rock gardens, although some shade protection is suggested in the intense heat of the interior valleys. Most species are not cold hardy and should be protected from frost-- if possible keep them above 40F. No special cultivation conditions are necessary other than the standard rules of adequate drainage and air circulation.

**calcairophila.** Stemless, leaves distichous, whitish teeth, simple inflorescence, white flowers.

**parvula.** Stemless. bluish grey rosulate papillate leaves. Simple inflorescence, coral red flwrs.

**albiflora.** Stemless. Greenish linear leaves with whitish spots. Simple inflorescence, white flowers.

**deltoideodonta.** Short stem. Var. brevifolia: greyish-green deltoid rosulate leaves. Simple inflorescence, red flowers. Var. candicans: greenish striated leaves

**conifera.** Short stem. rosulate deltoid leaves, thick bluish-grey, reddish tinged with reddish teeth. Inflorescence simple, tall, conical, with closely packed yellow flowers.

**capitata.** Short stem. Rosulate linear lanceolate leaves, thick, rigid green with reddish tinge. Inflorescence erect, branched. Flowers orange-yellow, capitata (in a crown facing downwards) .

**bellatula.** Stemless, suckering to form groups. Leaves linear, ascending, dark green, white spotted. Inflorescence simple, coral red flowers.

**descoingsii.** Stemless, suckering to form groups. Leaves deltoid, rosulate, recurved, dark green with whitish tubercles. Inflorescence simple, subcapitate. Flowers scarlet with yellowish mouth

**haworthioides.** Stemless. 30-35 densely rosulate, lanceolate, dark green leaves covered with white pustules, margins ciliate with narrow cartilaginous teeth. Inflorescence simple, flowers reddish.

## Aloes of Madagascar



*A parvula*



*A. conifera*



*A deltoideodonta brevifolia*



*A. albiflora*



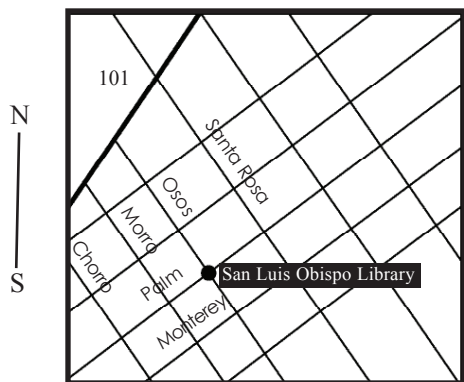
*A. descoingsii*



*A. albiflora* bloom

NEXT MEETING:

Sun. Nov 11 at  
2:00 pm



San Luis Obispo  
Public Library

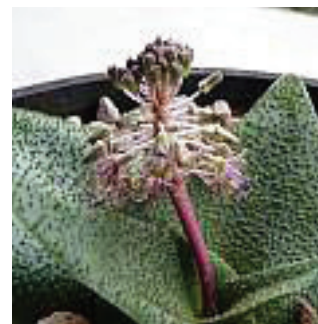
995 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo

## SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

Cody Coyotee Howard

### Hunting Hyacinthaceae in Habitat and Herbarium

Cody Coyotee Howard is currently employed as Conservation Technician for the Huntington Botanical Gardens where he works with the desert collection. His interest in *Hyacinthaceae*, specifically *Ledebouria*, began 2 years ago and since has developed into a passion. He is in the infant stages of working on a revision of the genus in Namibia and was fortunate enough to visit the country for the first time this past April. During that time he discovered a whole new world and a new point of view.



An overview of the taxonomic past of the commonly cultivated succulent bulb genus *Ledebouria* will be given.

Following a short historical introduction to Namibia and the biodiversity found in the Kunene (Kaokoveld) region, the various species of *Ledebouria* found in Namibia will then be presented, accompanied by distribution maps and photos. Then, some of the other exciting, larger plants found throughout northwestern Namibia will be highlighted. After this, you'll hopefully walk away with a better understanding of *Ledebouria* and its past, its diversity, and become as spellbound with them as the speaker.

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 be aware that the City of San Luis Obispo is charging for parking on Sunday afternoon, 1pm. The parking structure gives the first hour free and has 2 elevators. Or, you can park on the street and feed the meters! (There are also a few government lots that can be used for free at your own risk!)

### CCCSS CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 9 at 2PM

It's that time of year again, holiday season. As many of you may know, our December meeting is a potluck dinner/lunch with a plant auction and social get together. Our chance to celebrate the holidays Cactus and Succulent style.

As always, the club will supply turkey and ham main dishes. Sign up sheets for those wishing to provide appetizers, salads, other main and side dishes and/or dessert and those who would like to volunteer for set up and clean up duties will be at the November meeting. We'll need to know how many people will attend. Those of you who will be attending the dinner/lunch, but will not be at the November meeting give me a call @ 805-481-5596 or email me [hupt74@att.net](mailto:hupt74@att.net). Hope to see you there!--Pat Gilson/Hospitality

#### DECEMBER AUCTIONS: LIVE AND SILENT

As we have done in the past, we will be having two auctions at our December potluck, and we are looking for donations to each. Donations to the silent auction are 100% donations to the club, and this has been a great way for us to raise funds in the past. Please bring anything that relates to our hobby – plants, pots, top dressing, whatever seems right. The bidding forms will be provided – you just need to set a starting bid amount, and the bid increment.

For the live auction, we need about 15 nice show quality plants. If you have something you would like to be considered, contact Rob at 709-3033, [rskillin@gmail.com](mailto:rskillin@gmail.com). A picture would be appreciated. If your submittal is accepted for the auction, you will receive 75% of the winning bid, and 25% will go to the club.

# Upcoming Events

## November 3&4

**San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Winter Show & Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA. 9 a.m. to 4.30. For information: [sgvcss.com](http://sgvcss.com)**

## December 9

**CCCSS annual Christmas party. 2 pm at the SLO library. See detailed announcement in this newsletter.**

## 2013

### February 9

**San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Winter Show. Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. 10am to 4pm. For information: Chris Miller-- [cmiller@cox.net](mailto:cmiller@cox.net)**

### February 16\*\*\*\*

**Club field trip to Lotusland and San Marcos Growers. \$25 per person for members (pay by check please; this includes entrance to Lotus Land and bus transportation; no refunds). See/contact Jim Harlow 3575 Cloudy Meadow Rd. Tempton 93465.**

**June 15 to 20--CSSA 35th Biennial Convention. Austin, TX (save the date)**

**<http://CSSA2013.com>**

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## October Board Meeting Notes: 10/14/12

---The Board discussed details of the February 2013 trip to Santa Barbara. CCCSS will subsidize all costs over and above the \$25 group entrance fee to Lotusland. A motion was duly made, seconded and carried that CCCSS members will be charged \$25 for the Santa Barbara tour in February 2013 and all remaining costs will be borne by CCCSS. Jim Harlow was given checks to finalize arrangements. An announcement will be placed in the next newsletter. Members will be given the first opportunity to reserve seats on the tour. A guest list will be kept in case the initial offering is not sold out.

---A motion was duly made, seconded and carried that authorized language for the Standing Rules, as follows:

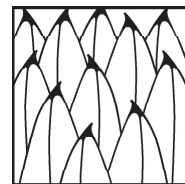
Speakers at the monthly meetings will be offered an honorarium, the amount of which will be commensurate with their circumstances; how far did they have to travel, what type of talk is it (slide show, demonstration, etc.), are they a member of CCCSS, and so forth. As an additional incentive to the speaker, the club will invite them to bring related items to sell (for instance, plants or pots), and they will not be required to make a contribution to the club. However, they will be personally responsible for paying the sales tax.

If a monthly speaker will not bring items to sell, a few members will be allowed to, but they must be pre-authorized by making a request to the Vice President. They will be asked to contribute an appropriate item to the raffle (in lieu of paying a percentage of sales to the club) and to be responsible for any taxes on their sales.

Gene Schroeder will add the above language to CCCSS's Standing Rules.

---Plans for the December pot-luck dinner were discussed. The Board agreed that the pot-luck activities will be conducted as in year's past, except that the club will purchase already prepared turkey and ham. A sign-up sheet will be available at the November meeting and an announcement will appear in the next newsletter.

---The need for insurance was discussed. It was suggested that participants in club-sponsored field trips sign a waiver/disclaimer.



**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.