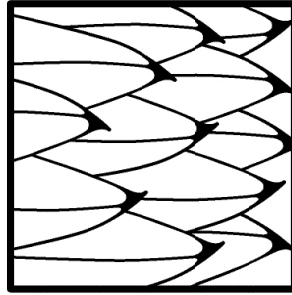


Central Coast Cactus  
& Succulent Society  
c/o Markus Mumper  
780 Merced St.  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



# On the Dry Side

September 2010

## Inside this issue: CCCSS August Meeting Recap

- Upcoming Speaker
  - Nick Wilkinson
- Last Month's
  - Meeting Minutes
- Genus of the Month
  - *Ferocactus*
  - *Adromischus*

**Gene Schroeder** greeted about 100 members that showed up for our August meeting. He reminded everyone that our **October meeting would be the 3rd Sunday of the month instead of the 2nd so mark your calendars for the 17th**. Our brag table had some very impressive plants which included a 1st prize "Best Echeveria" from the Paso Fair submitted by **Tim Dawson**. He won with his beautiful *Echeveria subrigida*. **Rich Hart** also showed us his awesome *Brunsvigia josephinae*. This South African bulb was in flower that was almost 3 feet tall. He said this plant was 20 years old. He started it from seed and it finally bloomed after 17 years.

Our raffle table keeps getting better and thanks to **Mary Peracca** and Gene Schroeder for donating some of their plants for the raffle table. Our team of **Rob Skillen, Charles Spotts** and Gene Schroeder all shared their specimens with us for the plants of the month: *Thelocactus* and *Bromeliad*. We are so fortunate to have these knowledgeable guys to be a part of our club. Also on that list is **Nick Wilkinson** who missed the meeting as he was selling at a show.

We were honored to have **Woody Minnich** as our speaker this month from New Mexico. His presentation of Rio Grande Do Sol was informative with wonderful photos and a twist of humor. This area in southern Brazil has a Mediterranean climate that is similar to our Central Coast. This area of winter rains includes grasslands, rolling hills, rock outcrops and deep ravines. This all creates a growing habitat for cacti, ferns, *Tillandsias*, mosses, bulbs, and Bromeliads.

A very small genus that is very abundant in this area is *Frailea*. One of the largest of this genus is *Frailea bigas* that grows only as large as a golf ball. Many of the *Fraileas* flowers never open due to lack of heat but they are self-fertile. Also impressive were shots of *Sinningia macrostachya* and *S. leucotricha* growing with their large tubers with the Hummingbirds loving these plants. Masses of yellow flowered *Notocactus ottonis* were abundant and we were fortunate to see photos of a possible new species of *Notocactus* yet to be named.

As Woody puts in his own words, his memory of masses of beautiful *Eriocactus magnificus* was "these are to die for". It's obvious by Woody's enthusiasm he has a deep passion for the plants he loves - thank you Woody!

~Jan Moon

Nick Wilkinson

### Cedros Island, Baja California

Nick Wilkinson is the owner of GROW, the Nursery at Moonstone Gardens which is located in Beautiful Cambria. Beyond running the nursery and making art, Nick often takes trips through prime cacti and succulent habitat to see these wonderful plants in their natural state. The most recent trip to date was a one week excursion to Cedros Island just off the coast of Baja California in the Pacific Ocean. There Nick saw many endemic and exotic succulent species as well as breathtaking scenery. It's this trip that Nick will be sharing with us this month. He will also be bringing a ton of plants for sale so don't miss out!

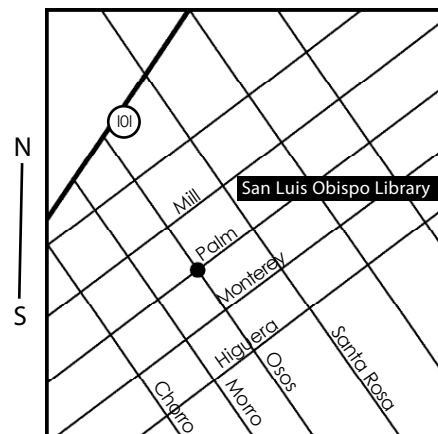


## NEXT meeting:

Sun, Sep. 12'th at  
2:00 pm

San Luis Obispo  
Public Library

995 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo



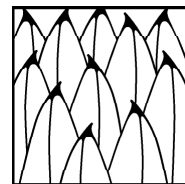
### NEWS FROM THE AUGUST BOARD MEETING:

#### THE OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE ON THE 17TH, THE 3RD SUNDAY!

- Gene Schroeder proposes an open board meeting to discuss new officer and board member positions and growth for our club - date to be announced.
- Martin & Jeanne, our librarians, are mulling over how to best control checked out books - a file system or book pockets. Decision to be made at our next meeting.
- Nick is proposing new T-shirts with our club logo.

### BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on September 12'th right after our General Meeting. As always all members are welcome.



Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society

e-mail: [markusmumper@gmail.com](mailto:markusmumper@gmail.com)

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

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Gene Schroeder 929-2161	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	<b>SECRETARY</b> Jan Moon 927-1310	<b>CSSA AFFILIATE</b> Rob Skillin 473-0788	<b>TREASURER</b> Edie Price 489-8491
--	---	--	--	--

<b>EDITOR</b> Markus Mumper 773-1499	<b>ASST. EDITOR</b> Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	<b>PUBLICITY</b> Wayne Mills 481-3495	<b>LIBRARIANS</b> Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanyasz 544-5389	<b>HOSPITALITY</b> 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!**  
 Enter CCCSS For 10% Off +Free Shipping

**Buy At CaptivatingCacti.com**



Ben Trogdon ©

**EL CHOYERO SPEAKS :**

**Question:** El Choyero, how do you know if a particular cactus or other succulent is self fertile or not?

**Answer:** Hola Amigos and Amigas!

Mijo de la!

Or, Son of a Gun as you say in the States!

You ask mucho of El Choyero. But I try:

A search on the Internets was not so successful. There is information on individual species but not so much of a list as I was trying to find. Maybe this does not exist.

I know from my own habit of playing Dios de Amor whenever I see an open flower that many if not most cacti are self fertile. I do this by using a small, soft paint brush to pollinate the flowers of an individual plant. Later on, more often than not, a fruit starts to grow that is full of seeds. Of course amigo, if you pollinate a number of the same species of plants at the same time you also get fruit. By this way the plants can share their genes and continue to evolve.

I think cacti work this way because many times they grow far apart or flower at different times, sometimes for only a day, so it helps them reproduce and continue the population even if little evolution occurs in the short term.

It is harder to answer this question for the succulents other than cacti. They come from many different familia and so have many different ways to propagate themselves.

Mijo - The best way to answer this question for yourself is to try to pollinate individual plants yourself. The results will tell you everything you ask.

Hasta la vista mi amigo.

**Upcoming Events**

**September 26**

**Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction**

Rancho Dominguez Adobe - 12:00 noon

18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez (310) 644-2709

**October 2 - 3**

**Cactus & Succulent Society of San Jose Fall Show & Sale**

Buchser Middle School - 9:00am - 5:00pm

1111 Bellomy Street, Santa Clara (408) 295-1634

**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 4 - 6**

**Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**

Fullerton Arboretum - 9:00am - 5:00pm

1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton, CA (714) 267-4329

The October meeting will be held on the 17th, the **THIRD** Sunday of October.

**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

the nursery at moonstone gardens

15% off for all CCCSS members

7432 Exotic Gardens Road | Cambria | CA | 93430  
 PH 805-924-1340 [www.grownursery.com](http://www.grownursery.com)

**PLANTERA PRIMAL**  
 SOLAR ELECTRIC FIRED STONEWARE CERAMICS  
**CHARLES VARNI**  
 OCEANO, CALIFORNIA  
 805.459.6698  
 WWW.VARNI.ORG  
 CHARLES@VARNI.ORG

WHEEL THROWN AND  
 HAND BUILT CERAMICS  
 EST. 1988

Richard Rowe  
 potter / artist

7432 Exotic Garden Rd.  
 Cambria, CA 93428  
 P 805 924 1340

[roweclayworks@att.net](mailto:roweclayworks@att.net)

**The Clayworks**

## **Ferocactus** (*Ferox*, L. for 'fierce', *Kaktos*, G. for 'thistle')

*Ferocactus* is a genus that has long been a major stereotype for the entire cactus family. Their imposing "barrel" shape can be seen in paintings and other forms of desert art, cartoons, and movies. Bolstered by errant folklore, the *Ferocactus* has been nicknamed "The Traveler's Friend". This is due to the belief that these "living barrels" are reservoirs of fresh drinking water in the hot arid deserts just waiting to be tapped into by a parched and wayward visitor. While this idea is quite romantic and plays well to the imagination, in reality, it is not recommended to drink this water as it is far too alkaline and may worsen the effects of dehydration. A far better source of water can be found in the flattened leaf-like pads of the nearby *Opuntia* species.

As a whole the species included in *Ferocactus* are indeed barrel-shaped, but some remain as smaller round stems and some may form clumps of few to many stems. These stems are ribbed – mostly straight, sometimes tuberculate. All species have stout spines, some of them especially thick and heavy and may be hooked or straight. Spines come in a wide range of colors, often varying within species, and may be yellow, gray, white, brown, pinkish, or most notably, brilliant red. On many species, the central spines feature ridges that run perpendicular to the spine. Flowers come from the top of the plant, often forming right around the apex. Flowers vary from yellow to red and are funnel shaped opening from between 1 and 2 inches in diameter. It is not unusual for developing buds to have to fight their way up through seemingly impenetrable masses of spines. The buds are scaly and naked. Fruits in most species are elongated and bright yellow and retain the dried flower parts at the top. This gives them an uncanny resemblance to little pineapples. As the flowers form in rings around the top of the stem, so the fruits form bright yellow rings and are quite showy. The fruits are mostly dry with a very tough, fleshy skin and contain many hard black or brown seeds.

In the wild, *Ferocactus* can be found in the Southwestern United States and throughout much of Mexico. Due to their size, *Ferocactus* can be spotted easily from the road and often indicate a habitat where smaller, hard-to-spot cactus may be found. A couple species of *Ferocactus* are sold by the large commercial growers, most notably *F. latispinus*. Nearly all species exist in the collections of more dedicated cactus growers.



## **Adromischus** (*Adros*, G. for 'thick', *Mischos*, G. for 'stem')

*Adromischus* is a genus of at least 28 species of small clumping leaf succulents from South Africa. Prior to revision of the genus by Tolken a larger number of species were recognized. Many of these older names are currently regarded as synonymous with a range of forms combined into a smaller number of species. *A. marianiae* is particularly variable across its range, reflecting combination of plants with markedly different appearance into a single species. Some natural hybrids are known.

The attractively marked and colored leaves of many species appeal to collectors but require high light levels for the different colors to be seen to full advantage. In shade most species adopt a similar green color. As the plants age some elongate losing leaves lower down their thickened stems. Opinions vary as to the merits of mature plants compared with smaller ones.

*Adromischus* flowers are generally small, with a greenish-white tube and pink or reddish corolla and produce sufficient nectar to start a fungal infection, especially towards the end of the growing season. As the flowers are not showy, many growers cut off the developing flower stems to avoid *botrytis*. The only species worth growing for its flowers is *A. phillipsii* which has relatively large showy orange tubular flowers reminiscent of those of *Cotyledon* to which *Adromischus* is closely related and with which it was once grouped.

Many species are easy to grow in any free-draining gritty compost. Their compact habit allows a collection to be maintained in a small space and they grow well on any sunny window ledge or the top shelf of the greenhouse. *Adromischus* tolerate cool, frost-free conditions during the winter if kept dry. It is as well to keep water off the foliage during the winter. Mealy bugs can be discouraged with a systemic insecticide.

Many species can be propagated from a single leaf which should be placed against the side of the pot so that the stem end is just touching the compost. Some species drop their leaves easily and although each leaf will form a new plant it can be a challenge to grow a large specimen.

