

**TOPIC OF THE MONTH:****An Overview of the 2014 CSSA Trip to the Canary Islands**

In May 2014 approximately twenty members of the CSSA traveled to the Canary Islands to see the succulent flora of six of the seven islands in this volcanic chain. These islands with such exciting species as *Dracaena draco*, *Euphorbia canariensis*, *Aeonium tabuliforme* and *Ceropegia fusca* are a paradise for lovers of succulent plants. From the coolest, wettest island of La Palma in the northwest to the warmest, driest island of Lanzarote in the northeast the group was able to view dozens of interesting species among several genera of succulent plants. The archipelago of the Canary Islands is the center of speciation for the genera *Aeonium*, *Aichryson* and *Monanthes*. The level of endemism [a species unique to a defined geographic location] is high for the Canary Islands as a whole and even for individual islands. Besides visiting dozens of habitats the group spent considerable time at three botanical gardens, pictures from which will also be featured.



Nels Christianson is a native of Merced, California. He was educated at UC Santa Barbara, Georgetown University, UCLA and the Federal University of Minas Gerais where he studied Brazilian literature through a Rotary Foundation scholarship. He retired in 2014 after a 37-year career in hospital administration and international relations at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Nels is a board member of the CSSA, a published poet and a board member of California Poets in the Schools, an organization which brings poetry composition workshops to 25,000 K-12 students statewide and whose headquarters is in San Francisco. Nels has been a member of the CSSA and of the Sunset Succulent Society in Marina del Rey since 1984. He is a potter and sells planter pots at his club meetings. Nels is the president of the Westchester Begonia Society, a member of the Culver City Gesneriad Society, Bromeliad Society international and two southern California bromeliad societies. He is a weekly volunteer at the Desert Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Nels has been hybridizing *Dyckias* for ten years. Some of his other favorite succulent genera are *Parodia*, *Retutia*, *Aloe*, *Dudleya*, *Echeveria*, *Gasteria* and *Sinningia*. Besides the trip to the Canary Islands Nels has participated in CSSA trips to Brazil, Argentina, Oaxaca and northeast Mexico. He will join the CSSA tour to Peru this August.

**OUR NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY JULY 9, 2PM****THE ODDFELLOWS HALL 520 DANA ST. (OFF NIPOMO ST.)** *mark your calendar!*

CCCSS: LAST MEETING RECAP

On June 12, 2016, President **Ken Byrne** opened the general membership meeting and invited the people who provided snacks for the meeting to select a succulent in thanks. He then asked the more than twenty first-time visitors to introduce themselves and select a succulent as our welcome.

Ken announced that the 2016 Show and Sale was the most successful ever in terms of sales, and had almost a record number of entries in the show. Awards and certificates will be presented at the July meeting. He also mentioned the quarterly CGCI District Meeting to be held on Friday, June 17 at the SLO Embassy Suites, where the president of CGCI was speaking. Members were invited to attend. **Terry Skillin** announced that the volunteer thank-you trip was fully filled. The trip will visit Lotusland, and lunch will be provided as an added perk, and the usual entertainment will be provided on the bus, including plant raffles. Because the trip quickly filled, and because some volunteers were unable to attend this trip, Terry said another trip is being planned. The Arroyo Grande Plant Exchange is scheduled for July 23 and there is a need for volunteers. Please contact Terry Skillin or **Terrie Leivers** for information. **Barbara Brooks**, Membership Chairperson, announced that there is a new Membership Application containing a hold-harmless clause, and must be signed by ALL members. Forms are available at meetings and the new form is scheduled to be added to our website. (Please note that members who renewed using the old form will have to sign a new form with the hold-harmless clause.) Rob Skillin discussed the annual show and sale at The Huntington in Sierra Madre on July 2 and 3.

There was no Plant of the Month, but there were Brag plants. Rob brought one of his most interesting plants, *Welwitschia mirabilis* from Namibia.. Instead of flowering, it produces cones and has two leaves that grow continuously throughout its life. Rob also reviewed the raffle plants. The meeting then took a break.

Following the break, Vice-President **Kathie Matsuyama** presented her outstanding PowerPoint presentation which provides an overview of succulents and cactus. Four CCCSS experts – **Markus Mumper, Rob Skillin, Charles Spotts** and **Charles Varni** – presented our traditional June meeting topic, Succulents 101. Some points from their presentation, and the following question-and-answer session, are the following:

- Most succulents can't tolerate full sun
- Succulents require good drainage – large holes, which should be covered with screen (pet-door screen from Miners) or similar to prevent bugs from entering from the bottom
- Don't water plants when they are dormant
- Use a well-draining mix – Black Gold at OSH and Miners was recommended; one expert's formula was 2 parts mix and 1 part pumice or cinders (available at Air-Vol Block), although each grower must find the soil mix that works best for their particular climate and conditions
- Pots require many/large holes for good drainage
- Low-fired ceramic pots allow unsightly mineral deposits by osmosis through the outside
- High-fired stoneware becomes rocklike and is more appropriate for succulents
- Pots without feet should be placed on feet to allow for air circulation
- To be successful, growers must be informed – know your plants and their individual requirements; Pot size is important – a too-small pot will stunt the plant's growth (which you might want – bonsai is a good example)

CCCSS: LAST MEETING RECAP

- Our area contains many different mini-climates – plants grown over The Grade need a heavier mix to help retain moisture in the excessive heat conditions
- Is decomposed granite a good addition to potting mix? – probably not, because it gets compacted – 5 to 10% might be OK
- Know your plants – google the genus and species
- How to deal with mealy bugs: 70% alcohol works, but be aware that ants often bring in these pests; there are other non-toxic remedies, but for big infestations, you need chemicals. Rob treats his plants twice a year prophylactically
- A warm, stagnant atmosphere encourages pests.
- How to know when to water? Scrape aside the top dressing and if the soil is dry, water; or lift the pot and learn how heavy it is when wet and dry; insert a bamboo skewer, all the way down, similar to checking for doneness when baking a cake
- Water meters were not favored by anyone
- Most plant families have developed succulent varieties
- Label plants – the experts recommended a #2 pencil
- Repotting: a pot that curves inward at the neck is difficult to unpot because the roots will be affected
- To remove a plant, turn it upside down and dump out over foam or newspapers
- Keep the roots intact, but you can trim the root ball when transplanting, or scratch the roots to allow them to spread
- Damaged roots can be left to heal for a week and then repot, but do not put the roots in sun
- Aphids will leave when flowering is completed – if they bother you, you can spray with a soap solution
- Aeoniums are monocarpic (they die after flowering) but often have formed pups
- Cactus grow more slowly than succulents and occasionally bloom, although some may flower all summer
- Pumice is white, volcanic cinders are red and black and cost \$4 for a one-half cubic-foot bag and make a good amendment and top dressing;
- Despite what we have heard from some speakers, our experts do not recommend recycling soil from an old pot as it could contain pests
- Be aware of dormancy, stop watering when the leaves drop.

Remember that there is an abundance of good information on line, including on our Facebook page.

The meeting adjourned after the raffles were held.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

PLANT OF THE MONTH: PEPEROMIA

(edited by Kathie Matsuyama)

Peperomia are part of the Piperaceae family which includes 5 genera and 1400 species of perennial herbs with both succulent and non-succulent members. The genus Peperomia is probably the most familiar, as Peperomias are widely grown as houseplants and includes some choice succulent species with windowed leaves and a handful with tubers. About a thousand species of Peperomias have been described, mainly from tropical South America although a few (17) are found in Africa.

Many of these plants are perennial epiphytes growing on rotten logs and they have thick stems and fleshy leaves, some with leaf windows. The palmate pattern of leaf veins is marked out in some species as furrows in the leaves or as colored lines. Most Peperomias have tiny flowers which are packed into a characteristic greenish or brown conical spike like an inverted catkin. A few species have more attractive flowers such as the white, scented clusters of spikes produced by *Peperomia fraseri* from Ecuador. Many species are borderline succulent and a few of these (e.g. *Peperomia caperata*) are popular foliage house plants. *Peperomia incana* (Felted Peperomia) is unusual in having leaves covered with fine silvery hairs.

The Peperomia genus includes several species which form tubers. *Peperomia campyloptropa* is a deciduous tuber-forming plant from the cooler regions of Mexico. After flowering, the aerial growth dies away and the tuber can survive long periods of drought. *Peperomia macrorhiza* from Peru and *Peperomia monticola* from Mexico form a large caudex.

Cultivation: Peperomias are best cultivated in light, well drained compost containing plenty of humus and do well in shallow containers. Coming from tropical rain-forest habitats, they love warm humid conditions and most need minimum temperatures of 50 - 55°F. However, the fleshy stems and foliage can be prone to rotting. Peperomias should be watered sparingly from below (especially in winter), avoiding wetting the crown of the plant. In warm climates Peperomias can be grown outside as ground cover or as epiphytes on tree trunks, but beware of slugs and snails that enjoy the succulent foliage. Apart from a tendency to rot if over-watered; Peperomias also can suffer from ringspot which is manifested as distorted foliage with chlorotic or necrotic rings on the leaves. This disease may be caused by cucumber mosaic virus and the only treatment is to destroy infected material. Peperomias may be propagated from leaf or tip cuttings, although the variegated and succulent species grow mainly from tip cuttings.



Peperomia fraseri



Peperomia caperata variegata



Peperomia abyssinica



Peperomia acuminata



Peperomia dolabriformis

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1 - 3 CSSA Annual Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA

July 23 Arroyo Grande Plant Exchange, Elm Street Park at the Gazebo, Noon - 4pm

August 13 - 14 Inter-City Cactus Show & Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 301 North Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007. Saturday & Sunday, 9am - 5 pm

Dates TBA Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose Fall Show & Sale, Peterson Middle School, 1380 Rosalia Way, Sunnyvale, CA. Saturday 9am - 5pm & Sunday 10am - 4pm

October 1-2, 2016 Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale, San Juan Batista Community Hall, 10 San Jose Street, San Juan Batista. Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 9am - 4pm

PLANTS FOR SALE

Sheri Swall, former member of CCCSS is selling her collection of succulents and orchids to go on the road full time. Sherri has some prize-winning plants at her Grover Beach home. Call Sheri at 805-709-0386 or contact her at: Sheri934445@Charter.net for more information.

SHOW WINNERS

Images of the show winners from our show are now available online at:

<https://dimages.smugmug.com/Shows-Tours/CCCSS-Show-May-2016/>

ARROYO GRANDE PLANT EXCHANGE

WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2016 TIME: NOON TO 4:00 PM COST: FREE

WHERE: ELM STREET PARK AT THE GAZEBO. ENTRANCE IS AT 1221 ASH ST. ARROYO GRANDE


All types of healthy plants welcome, from succulent cuttings to full size plants, including vegetables, seeds, bulbs, succulents, house plants, bromeliads, tillandsias, flowers, etc.

Also we need volunteers!!!! There will be a number of tasks including monitoring trade tables, unloading vehicles and getting plants to trade area and of course set-up and clean-up. Bonus – you will get to see what you can trade your plants for first :).

E-mail: Terrie Leivers at terrieleivers@gmail.com or Terry Skillin at tjskillin@gmail.com

Join the CSSA

<http://cssa.myshopify.com/collections/join-cssa>

 Cactus & Succulent Society of America

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - JUNE 2016

[Note: the Secretary neglected to note the persons in attendance.]

Officers and members assembled for a meeting of the Board of Directors following the general membership meeting on June 12, 2016, at 5:00 pm. A time limit of 6:00 pm for ending BOD meetings was agreed to by voice vote. If discussions wander off-point, someone will say "Opuntia."

Board Actions and Discussion: There will be no carry-over to next meeting for unclaimed raffle tickets from the S&S. There were five volunteers for the Arroyo Grande Plant Exchange and more are needed. A flyer for the event will be prepared by either Terrie Leivers or Carol Moss. The reward trip on June 25 is full, with five on the wait list. The trip will include a Domino's Pizza delivery at Seaside Gardens for lunch. There will be another trip in the fall and will feature a discounted price for volunteers who were unable to attend the Lotusland trip. It may include visits to wholesale nurseries, probably on a weekday. Member-at-Large David Westberg will help Membership Chair Barbara Brooks sign up new and renewing members, all of whom must sign the new Membership Application that contains a hold-harmless clause.

The search for a wireless microphone continues; Ken Byrne and Kathie Matsuyama will present their findings at the July meeting. The independent contractor who administers our web account, Rick Smith, is raising his monthly fee from \$10 to \$15 per month. The Board authorized Treasurer Maggie Wagner to pay Rick Smith the new amount at the beginning of our fiscal year. Other matters discussed included ideas for club-sponsored projects, funding and/or donations consistent with a 401(3)(c) and CGCI expectations. This discussion will be continued at the next board meeting. One specific project that was raised was for the club to repot the planter in the news recently that was stolen by the notorious succulent thief.

The Treasurer gave her report. Ken was looking into the amount of next year's rent at the Odd Fellows Hall. Maggie reported on her efforts to find a new bookkeeper. The exiting bookkeeper, who may have exposed us to penalties by filing our taxes after the deadline, will be let go and the circumstances will be documented in a letter. We need to retrieve our data before this occurs. Our new bookkeeper, who is charging us \$125 per month, will begin her duties at the start of the fiscal year (July 1). Maggie is also looking for someone to audit our books; we will discuss it further in September. All issues requested by the Treasurer were made by proper motion and approved by the board. Someone is needed to take over book sales at our general meetings. Natasha Erikson-Garcia was highly recommended. Kathie will contact her, and book sales and Membership will be provided with receipt books. Kathie proposed that the board authorize Ken and Ann to purchase a cart for transporting the library. By motion duly made and seconded, the Byrnes were authorized to spend up to \$150 to purchase a cart that will be owned by CCCSS and used for transporting books. The motion passed by voice vote. Markus Mumper agreed to handle book sales at the July meeting. Rob will ask Rick Smith to post our current newsletter online prior to that month's membership meeting.

The S&S committee was scheduled to meet on June 23, 2016, for their retrospective on this year's Show and Sale.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm, as planned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

LOTUSLAND REWRDS TRIP (2016)

Wayne Mills

The Rewards bus trip was another wonderful adventure planned and executed by Terry Skillin, with help from several other folks. Forty-four people made the trip and the rides down and back from Santa Barbara seemed to go quickly. Maybe the return trip seemed quicker... after a glass or two of wine—who was watching the time? People were eager for the half hour mark to come around on the trips in both directions because that is when we pulled the winning numbers (eight of them) for the nice plants that Rob Skillin provided for the trip. At the end of the day, the San Luis Obispo Contingent (20 folks) cleaned-up by winning 5 of the 8 plants, while the Pismo Beach contingent (24 folks) won only 3. The winners in the order that they were drawn (and the order that they got to pick their plants) were: Claudette Rettig, Elizabeth Scott-Graham, Leisa Swanson, Barbara Brooks, Kathie Matsuyama, Jim Neuman, Janice Muslin, and Susan “Braids” Waidner.

We got into **Lotusland** on schedule and were divided into groups of about 10 each among 5 docents who set out in different directions to lead us on a stroll through Madam (Ganna) Walska's 16 gardens and other special areas of the estate. Duane, who led the group I was in, was very knowledgeable and shared a lot of interesting facts about Madam Walska, though our own Leisa Swanson surprised him with a few facts that she had gained from reading about the former opera star and her 6 husbands.

We left Lotusland just after noon, and proceeded to **Seaside Gardens** at 3700 Via Real in Carpinteria, where our pizza was waiting. A few of us found a nifty perch in their Mediterranean Garden to eat pizza and drink sodas before wandering the gardens, marveling at the wonderful landscapes before hitting the sales area. The cargo hold of our bus started to fill with plants, as we headed to our last destination, **Terra Sol Nursery** located at 5320 Overpass Road (off Patterson Road) in Santa Barbara. Again, some folks (including myself) found some neat plants to take home, and now the challenge is where to put them!

With four names to draw, and the wine starting to flow (thanks to Terry Skillin, Loring Manley and Carol Moss), the return trip was pretty fun. There was lively conversation most of the way back, and all (it appears) had a great time. We certainly felt well rewarded for our efforts at making our annual show and sale a success.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Annual CCCSS Club Membership Renewal Message
From Your Membership Chairperson, Barbara H Brooks

On behalf of the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society, thank you for your continuing loyalty and support of our club. You are appreciated and CCCSS could not do what it does without you. But before asking you to renew your annual membership dues, which are due July, 2016, please think about this: what has CCCSS done for you lately? Does CCCSS offer any benefits to you? What is the value of renewing your membership?

CCCSS provides cactus and succulent enthusiasts with what they need: a place to meet and connect with other succulent lovers who share their passions. Sharing mutual interests makes life so much more enjoyable! Our club provides you comprehensive programs and events that help you expand your knowledge and enjoyment of the wonderful and diverse world of cactus and succulents. Our prestigious Annual Memorial Day Show and Sale by itself is a great reason to be a member! If you've gone on a bus trip, attended a monthly meeting, joined a workshop or special event, you have experienced the sheer joy and relaxation of indulging in your love of succulents. This next year CCCSS plans on more exciting events for club members, so please join us and renew your membership today.

It's easy to renew your membership. See me at monthly club meetings or send me a check payable to CCCSS. Mail to Barbara Brooks, 441 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Dues are as follows:

Individual, \$20 | Family, \$25 | Business, \$40

If you would like more information, please go to <http://centralcoastcactus.org/>. Click "How to Join" for membership information and forms. Please contact me anytime if you have any questions/concerns.

Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Last Name	First Name
Last Name	First Name
Address	
City, State Zip	
Phone	Email

- Individual / \$20
 Family / \$25
 Business / \$40



Make Checks Payable To

CCCSS

c/o Barbara H. Brooks
441 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Or submit dues during any meeting.

Enter Names of Additional Family Members Below

The signature(s) below verifies that, to the maximum extent permitted by law, I/we agree to hold harmless all parties engaged in activities relating to Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society, including meetings, events, garden tours and activities involving transportation, and verifies I/we hold harmless all parties involved from any loss or damage to my/our person, guests, possessions or the possessions of my guests during any CCCSS-related activity.

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