



CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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MARCH 2016

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

TOM GLAVICH

Tom Glavich is a member of most of the LA Area Cactus and Succulent Societies, a member of the Board of Directors of the CSSA, and a frequent contributor to the CSSA Journal column "To The Point". He is also co-chair of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent show held at the LA Arboretum every August. A compendium of his articles on Haworthii and other succulent monocots was recently published by the CSSA.

"THE HIGH DRAKENSBERG IN SUMMER"

The topic of our speaker of the month is "The High Drakensberg in Summer" The Drakensbergs are a set of mountains that form the border between South Africa and Lesotho. The Drakensbergs have a unique flora that includes many succulents, some spectacular bulbs, and wonderful scenery.

Tom will be bringing some plants, pots and books to sell.



OUR NEXT MEETING SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2PM

THE ODDFELLOWS HALL 520 DANA ST. (OFF NIPOMO ST.) *mark your calendar!*

CCCSS: LAST MEETING RECAP

Valentine's Day 2016 was a beautiful, warm day, and it was great that so many people chose to spend it with their cactus and succulent buddies. President **Ken Byrne** called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and invited the people who brought treats to select a free plant in thanks. Then our first-time visitors introduced themselves and chose a free succulent.

Millie Benson, CGCI Director of the Montaña de Oro District, announced that the district members' yearbooks would be judged on the following Friday. CCCSS has been a member of the district for just a few years and haven't participated very much in District activities. There are three board meetings each year in February, September and June. Millie said that it is our turn to host the board meeting in June. **Wayne Mills** announced the self-guided South County Garden Tour set for Saturday, April 9. Members were very enthusiastic about signing up. Each participant is required to sign a waiver and submit it with \$3 to Wayne. **Terrie Leivers** announced the second hypertuffa workshop set for Saturday, March 5, but the class filled by the end of the day. Carol Mortensen announced the annual t-shirt design contest. Entries will be judged at the March meeting. **Ann Byrne** will work at the Library Table until **Gene Schroeder's** return, but someone is needed to store and transport two boxes of books to each meeting. There are sixteen overdue club library books and Ann will post the names of the people who checked them out as a reminder to return them.

Rob Skillin, with **Terrie Leivers'** assistance, discussed Plant-of-the-Month plants while projecting them on the screen. They are still experimenting, and today we all learned that there needs to be better lighting so that the room lights can be turned off ... having the lights on so Rob and Terrie could see what they were doing made for poor quality projection. Rob pointed out that having members share their plants on the Brag and Plant-of-the-Month tables makes our meetings more interesting, but there is a problem with people handling the plants and breaking tags. No one wants that, so please remember to just look. The owner will have filled out an information card which will explain everything there is to know. By the way, people bringing in plants to these tables receive a raffle ticket in thanks and two of those tickets won raffle plants, so it pays off. Rob talked about tubers, bulbs, memsebs, albucas from his collection, and lithops. Lithops heads are emerging right now. They should not be watered in winter or when the new heads begin to emerge, as the old leaves will nourish the new growth and then wither. If you water too soon, the old leaves won't go away. Rob then discussed some of the raffle plants, which included many winter-growers.

The people who contributed goodies went all-out and presented a beautiful and tasty selection of treats for the break, and Wayne had long-stemmed roses on the table ... a nice way to celebrate the holiday. Thanks to **Claudette Rettig** and her helpers and everyone who is generous about contributing

Following the break, **Kathie Matsuyama** introduced our featured speaker, **Paul Mills**, who is currently a curator and propagator at Lotusland [HINT: Show and Sale Reward Trip destination]. He shared with us photographs from his trip to the Galapagos Islands in 2014.

The islands were never attached to the mainland, but were formed by undersea volcanic eruptions, creating chains of islands as the earth's crust moved over the hot spots. This is also how the Hawaiian Islands formed. The Galapagos are part of Ecuador and are about 600 miles off the coast. There are many endemic species on the islands, both flora and fauna. We saw photos of many different Opuntia, as well as turtles, finches, iguanas and lizards. Charles Darwin based his revolutionary book *On the Origin of Species* from his studies in the Galapagos.

Following the presentation, the raffles were held, everyone helped clear the room, the exchange was held, and everyone went home except the people who attended the board meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary, Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society

PLANT OF THE MONTH: ECHINOPSIS

Adapted by Kathie Matsuyama from Greg Krehel's website

www.Echinopsis.com

Echinopsis is a large genus of cacti native to South America, sometimes known as hedgehog cactus, sea-urchin cactus or Easter lily cactus. One small species, *E. chamaecereus*, is known as the peanut cactus. The name derives from echinos meaning "hedgehog or sea urchin", and opsis meaning "appearance", a reference to these plants' dense covering of spines. Modern taxonomy has combined *Echinopsis*, *Lobivia* and *Trichocereus*. Most recent authors have described all three under *Echinopsis*. The 128 species range from large and treelike types to small globose cacti. *Echinopsis* feature amazing flowers:

1. Most *Echinopsis* varieties have incredibly colorful flowers. Flowers can be red, violet, orange, yellow or combinations of colors.
2. The flowers can be up to 5"-6" in diameter.
3. Flowers appear in flushes of multiple flowers opening at the same time. Flowers only last a day after opening.
4. *Echinopsis* can produce multiple flushes of flower for as long as the daytime temperatures remain above 70F.

Where can *Echinopsis* be grown? Grow *Echinopsis* where summer temperatures are consistently 70F or above. Heat spurs growth of plants and flowers. Don't let roots sit in water continuously. Protect the plants from wet weather. *Echinopsis* can tolerate cold temperatures during winter months. But, bring plants inside during hard freezes or their water-filled bodies will freeze.

Growing *Echinopsis* indoors: *Echinopsis* can be grown indoors, but it's not optimal, especially for flower production. For good blooms, during the growing season (April – September) the plants need max sunlight and max heat. During dormant season (October-March) they like cold, but not freezing, weather. This cold period may be important to the next year's flower production (*Echinopsis* have cold nights in their natural environment). During freezing temperatures, grow the plants indoors. Once night time temps stay above freezing, move the plants outside to a bright location.

When do *Echinopsis* flower? *Echinopsis* bloom quickly when daytime temperatures consistently exceed 70F. Most *Echinopsis* varieties put out repeated flushes of flowers until daytime temperatures drop below the magic 70F line. Blooms typically open at night. It's common to have several buds on one plant developing at different rates. A single plant can be in bloom for several weeks.

What is the optimal soil mix? Don't plant *Echinopsis* in regular potting mix. It retains too much water for too long. Make an *Echinopsis* mix by combining 25% perlite, 25% sand with 50% soil. Choose gritty builders' sand over finer playground sand. After planting *Echinopsis*, sprinkle extra sand around the base of the plant. *Echinopsis* experts say this sand provides extra abrasiveness helpful to creating "pups".



Echinopsis cacti displaying the typical sea urchin shape. Each "cotton" puff on the "Aquila" hybrid is the beginning of a flower.



5" diameter flowers overwhelm a 4" diameter "Antares" hybrid



Different varieties approaching second bloom in May



More than a dozen "pups" growing on a "Ben Hur" hybrid.

PLANT OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

What type of pots should I use? *Echinopsis* can be planted in the ground in areas without hard freeze or water logged soil for extended periods. Or plant *Echinopsis* in containers. *Echinopsis* have shallow root systems, so use shorter pots (aka azalea pots). An inch or so of pebbles in the bottom of the pot can facilitate rapid water drainage. Pots of any material are fine. Just be sure to adjust your watering schedule accordingly; water more frequently for clay and less for plastic.

How frequently should *Echinopsis* be watered? Once daytime temperatures climb above 70F, *Echinopsis* enjoy regular watering, probably more frequently than is the norm for desert cacti. *Echinopsis* can survive summer sun with little water, but they will grow few flowers if they are parched. How often to water will vary based on the weather, the size and type of pot, the nature of the soil, etc. As you do for all your succulents, water your potted *Echinopsis* until water drains freely from the drainage hole. This ensures the entire root structure receives water. When daytime temperatures do not exceed 70F, *Echinopsis* become semi dormant. Cut watering back dramatically; water only when the soil is dry.

How much sun should *Echinopsis* receive? *Echinopsis* require a lot of sun if you expect to maximize blooming. But avoid intense hot midday sun. Where that's a risk, grow *Echinopsis* in direct sunlight for only half of the daylight hours.

What about fertilization? During winter months, *Echinopsis* are effectively dormant; so don't fertilizer. Once the growing season begins, *Echinopsis* love a good dose of fertilizer to promote growth and blooming.

Three strategies for fertilizing:

1) Use an all-season granular fertilizer sprinkled on soil when winter ends. (2) Fertilize once a month with a liquid plant fertilizer like Miracle Grow. (3) Dilute the strength of liquid fertilizer to about 1/6 strength and use every time you water. If using liquid fertilizer directly on the plants, wash off the plant bodies by following up with a spray of plain water. This helps avoid increased risk of plant sun burn.

When should I repot my *Echinopsis*? Repotting *Echinopsis* every spring provides fresh soil to boost flower and overall plant growth. Or repot every 2nd or 3rd year, but blooming may be reduced. Repotting each year enables examination of the root structure grown over the past year. *Echinopsis* do not like being root bound; they need sufficient room for new growth.



Numerous "pups" on this large cluster of Anastasia hybrid.



K-T Hybrid Echinopsis with incredible flowers!

PLANT OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

How and when should I separate pups from the mother Echinopsis?

Some Echinopsis “pup” like mad. Others are stingy with offspring. Remove pups for replanting during the active growing season when daytime temps are consistently above 70F. Let pups grow to 1” or larger in diameter before removing them from the mother cactus. Pups growing at the soil line may already have roots. If so, plant the pup directly in a small pot in the rich Echinopsis soil mix.

If you remove a pup directly from the mother plant, place it on a dry surface upside down and let it sit for 7-10 days in partial sun to callous. Don’t water the pup during the callousing phase to reduce introducing bacteria. Then fill a small pot with the Echinopsis soil mix. Next, make a ½” -1” deep depression and fill it and the area surrounding the depression with a ½ inch layer of sand. The sand layer reduces the bacteria level around the pup and helps prevent rot. Place the pup in the sand, but don’t push it through to the dirt below. When roots grow, they’ll push through the sand into the dirt. Since the replanted pup has little or no root structure, water every other day or even every day if temps are above 90F. Hydrate the pup by putting water directly on it and lightly moisten the soil below it encouraging root growth.

For more information, please checkout Greg Krehel’s FANTASTIC Echinopsis website: www.Echinopsis.com

References:

www.Echinopsis.com

The Cactus Family by Edward F. Anderson

Wikipedia



Massonia jasminiflora



Schizobasis intricata (Drimia)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12 Stunning Succulent Gardens of the Central Coast with Nick Wilkinson, owner GROW Nursery. SLO Botanical Garden, 1 PM to 2 PM, followed at 2 PM by a free docent-led tour. <http://slobg.org/succulent/>

April 2-3 Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose Spring Show & Sale, Peterson Middle School, 1380 Rosalia Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA. Saturday 9am - 5pm & Sunday 10am - 4pm.

April 15-16 Ruth Bancroft Garden Spring Opening & Plant Sale, Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Saturday 9am - 11am (Members pre-sale & auction) 11am - 3pm (Public sale)

April 9 South County Garden Tour, Nipomo - San Luis Obispo. 10am - 4pm

April 9-10 South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale, 9am - 4pm, South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes

April 23-24 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

May 7-8 Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society 2015 Show & Sale, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd Sacramento, CA. Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 9am - 4pm

May 27 CCCSS Show and Sale: Setup, incoming exhibition plants, and Judging.

May 28 & 29 CCCSS Show and Sale

June 11-12 San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society 2015 SALE & SHOW, San Francisco County Fair Building, 1199 9th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94122 - Saturday & Sunday 9am - 5pm

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

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

44th Annual Show & Sale

April 9-10, 2016 9 AM - 4 PM



South Coast
Botanic Garden
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Peninsula 90274

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS: RANDY TATROE
rtatroe@a.com 303-699-8958 or WOODY MINNICH cactusdata@msn.com 661-406-9816

SOUTH COUNTY GARDEN TOUR APRIL 9, 2016

To date, 34 folks have signed up for the succulent tour. We will send those folks an e-mailed copy of the tour brochure when it is ready—hopefully by mid-March. We plan to have 30 more sign-up slips at our March meeting, but it would REALLY help our planning to have the rest of the sign-ups in by then (see copy below).

I plan to take a straw poll to see how many of the tour attendees will participate in the plant exchange (4:00-5:30 pm) and to what extent (1-5 plants)—need to plan for tables! The idea is that folks will come in the north gate of the property, receive one SCCST Tour plant stake for each plant they bring, then wait until about 4:30 pm to select their plants. There is stuff to look at in the back and side yards in the meantime. When plants are selected, you can take your new plants out the south gate where someone will check to make sure that each plant has a SCCST Tour tag.

Hope to see a lot of our folks at the Tour. I think it will be fun!

Wayne Mills

SOUTH COUNTY SUCCULENT TOUR 2016 (Saturday, April 9 10 AM to 4 pm)

I _____ wish to participate in the 2016 South County Succulent Tour sponsored by the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society. My signature on this document verifies that, to the maximum extent permitted by law, I agree to hold harmless all parties engaged in this activity (including the CCCSS, home owners and tour hosts) from any loss or damage to my person, my guests, my possessions or the possessions of my guests during this activity.

Enclosed please find (\$3.00 per person) _____ to cover the costs of this activity.

Signature

Date

E-mail (for mailing brochure)

(Please mail one form per attendee to: Wayne Mills, 502 Via La Barranta, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 by March 31, 2016)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - FEBRUARY, 2016

On Sunday, February 14, 2016, the following people assembled for the meeting of the Board of Directors: Barbara Brooks, Ann Byrne, Ken Byrne, Pat Gilson, Terrie Leivers, Kathie Matsuyama, Wayne Mills, Carol Moss, Claudette Rettig, and Ron Skillin.

There was no Treasurer's report, but Pat brought in some documents from Maggie for Ken to deal with. Barbara is still transitioning to the new spreadsheet; there were three new members and three renewals. Barbara said that there are too many copies being made of the previous newsletter for distribution to members without computer access. Barbara will consult with Erin. It was noted that there was an incorrect date for S&S setup on Friday May 27. Someone needs to work at the Library table next month... Harry, Mary and/or Barbara will handle it.

Rob suggested that a good way to enhance the education of our members would be to purchase books that are expensive but of interest. Terrie Leivers discussed the Plant Exchange in Arroyo Grande scheduled for Saturday, July 23. It will be advertised in the 5 Cities Activity Guide and the site fee will be comped by the city, they will provide tables, and Arroyo Grande in Bloom will be available for staffing. It will be held at the gazebo in Elm Street Park from 12 to 4, with a free-for-all for whatever remains at 4 o'clock. Volunteers from CCCSS are needed for staffing ... please contact Terrie Leivers. The event is for the exchange of plants only, with no money changing hands. Terrie also said that the next hypertuffa workshop is full. The S&S Reward Trip will involve Lotusland, lunch at a private garden and possible shopping. June 25, possibly June 18, are target dates.

Rob discussed the equipment he purchased for projecting plants onto the big screen. It was agreed that he needs more lighting and a tripod. A motion was made and seconded authorizing Rob to be reimbursed up to \$600 for the already-purchased camera and whatever else is needed. The motion passed.

New business included discussion of the handbook judging for CGCI. Ken is going and will report back to the board. Carol will make signage asking people to not touch other people's plants. We also need someone to work at the POM/Brag table.

Some members are interested in selling their products at the show and sale, but we cannot add anyone new unless a current vendor wishes to drop out, and there is already a waiting list for potential vendors.

The Greenhouse Growers event will be on April 16 at Nipomo High School, and CCCSS will have representation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEEDED: LIBRARIAN HELPER

Our amazing CCCSS Librarian, Gene Schroeder, needs some help. We need a Library Helper to volunteer to store several plastic storage boxes of our club's library books in your personal garage or some waterproof location for about 6 months. The Library Helper would transport two boxes of books to each monthly meeting on a small dolly we will provide. We're looking for someone with a little strength to lift the boxes into their car and onto the library table. This is not a job that requires re-planning, public-speaking, research, knowledge of rare and unusual cactus and succulents, or meeting and greeting dozens of club members. All we need is someone willing to take on this small task of Library Helper. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated! Thank you in advance for your help! Please contact Kathie Matsuyama at 929-4692.



DON'T BE LATE TO THE MARCH MEETING!

**SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ON MARCH 13 SO
YOU WON'T BE AN HOUR LATE TO OUR MEETING.**

HELP WANTED:

CCCSS MONTHLY CALENDAR

Seeking a volunteer to update the CCCSS Monthly Calendar. The format and CCCSS dates are already organized in a Microsoft Word document. The job entails researching and calendaring succulent-related events throughout the state on a monthly basis and submitting it to the Board. See Carol Moss.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

This is a short note to thank Kathie Matsuyama for continuing the CCCSS tradition of consistently having the finest programs of any club I have ever belonged to (and there are several). Being the program chair for one of those clubs gives me insight into the fact that this is a time-consuming, onerous and often under-appreciated task. Many thanks to Kathie for the outstanding programs she has and continues to line(d)-up for us.

Wayne Mills,
Arroyo Grande

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Cactus & Succulent Society of America

SHOW AND SALE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPONSOR A CATEGORY

From Christy Keeling: The cost is \$30 and the sponsor's name will be published in the show schedule and on the information poster on the awards table at the show and sale. The deadline for signing up, is two weeks after our March monthly meeting so there is time to publish the show schedule before our April monthly meet. I will be at the March meeting or I can be reached at ck@christykeeling.com. Categories available include:

- Best Baja Native
- Best Caudiciform
- Best Collection
- Best Miniature
- Best Madagascan Plant
- Best Crested Entry
- Best Chihuahuan Desert Cactus
- Best Euphorbiaceae
- Best Mesemb
- Best Crassulaceae
- Best Aloeaceae
- Best Rookie Entry - Cactus
- Best Rookie Entry - Succulent
- Best Agavaceae
- Best Staged Entry - Novice
- Best Staged Entry - Advanced
- Best Staged Entry - Open
- Rarest Plant in Show
- Best Dish Garden

WINNERS OF PERMANENT TROPHIES

Did you win a permanent trophy at the 2015 Show & Sale? If you have the trophy for: Best Novice Succulent, Best Advanced Succulent, Best Open Succulent, Best Novice Cactus, Best Advanced Cactus or Best Open Cactus, please return your trophy at our monthly meeting. We're preparing for the 2016 Show & Sale!


URGENT!! BOXES NEEDED!

Please help collect boxes for the 2016 Show & Sale coming up May 28-29, 2016. We need hundreds of boxes for shoppers at the Sale. Please help!!

Please start saving boxes now. The perfect time to bring them is the Friday evening before the Show, when you will be bringing your Show entries. Costco is a great source for free boxes.

Thank You!

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 Cactus & Succulent Society of America

SHOW AND SALE ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL SHOW & SALE T-SHIRT CONTEST

Our 10th Annual Show and Sale is coming up in May, and once again, we are planning to commemorate it with a special T shirt. All Contest Entries Need to be printed out & brought to the March 13th meeting to be considered for a vote.

Work up a design, bring it in to the March meeting, the club members will vote at the meeting and the most popular design will be put on the shirt. For best results, keep your design simple and graphic so its easy to reproduce. Integrate the club's name, the event name (10th annual Show and Sale), and possibly the date (2016) into the design would be a plus.

If you have questions, contact Carol Mortensen:
carolmortensen0@gmail.com

RECIPE

Layered Salad from Pat Gilson

- 1 head iceberg lettuce
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 4-hard boiled eggs, sliced
- 1-10 oz. pkg. frozen peas
- 1/2 cup finely chopped green pepper
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 8 slices cooked bacon, crumbled
- 2 cups mayonaise
- 2 T sugar
- 4 oz. grated cheddar cheese

Tear lettuce into 9x13 inch pan. Layer and add the celery, eggs, peas, green pepper, onion and bacon. Mix mayo and sugar, then frost top of salad with mixture. Cover with grated cheddar cheese. Enjoy!



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