



CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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OCTOBER 2015

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

Rob Skillin

“Pediocactus and Sclerocactus; A Tour of the Colorado Plateau”

This month's program will feature two little known genera of American cacti: *Pediocactus* and *Sclerocactus*. Presented by the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society's Rob Skillin, the program highlights the best of 25 years of field study during which Rob photographed all species of the two groups, as well as the magnificent landscapes of the Southwestern US. He will explain what these plants are, where they are found, the often very specialized environmental conditions they have adapted to, and why they are so seldom grown in plant collections. Come to this month's meeting and learn about the smallest US cactus, the rarest US cactus, and the most widespread genus you've never heard of.

ABOUT ROB

I have been growing cacti and succulents for approximately 37 years, and have been involved in various local societies for most of that time. The first office I held was Show and Sale Chairman for the Santa Barbara C&SS, during the late 1980s. After moving to California's Central Valley, I became a founding member, and later, President of the Bakersfield C&SS. In 2005, after another move, I was a founder the Central Coast C&SS and became its first President. This society now boasts 300+ members, and held its very successful ninth annual show and sale in May of 2015. I have also been involved with the CSSA as a member of it's Board of Directors.

My first interest, which continues today, was cacti of the Chihuahuan desert, especially those unique genera such as *Ariocarpus*, *Aztekium*, and *Strombocactus*, etc. Gradually, I diversified my collection to include Mesembs, Haworthias, and other succulents, particularly caudiciforms. I've spent many years studying the cacti of the US, particularly *Sclerocacti* and *Pediocacti*. I am an avid grower of plants from seed, and now have a number of seed-grown specimens in my collection dating back to 1982. As an acknowledgment my expertise with these plants, I have been asked to judge numerous shows throughout California, including the CSSA, Intercity, NORCAL, LA, and San Diego shows.

Along with my interest in cacti and succulents, I enjoy photography and travel. These interests have come together in a wonderful way during my botanical explorations of the western US and Mexico, and portions of South America, Africa, Madagascar and the Middle East. I have several programs based on these trips, and I speak regularly to clubs in northern and southern California. Many of my photographs have been published as illustrations for articles in the CSSA Journal, as well as on its cover, and that of *Haseltonia*.

OUR NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY OCTOBER 11, 2PM

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

CCCSS: LAST MEETING RECAP

President **Ken Byrne** welcomed another large turnout at our monthly general membership meeting on a hot Sunday, September 13, 2015. After the people who brought refreshments chose their succulent in thanks for their much-appreciated contributions, and the eleven or so first-time visitors introduced themselves and also received a succulent, there were announcements, starting with **Barbara Brooks**, Membership Chair, who reminded us that the deadline for membership renewals is September 30. You can renew by mailing your dues to Barbara ... please refer to her announcement elsewhere in the newsletter. **Wayne Mills** explained arrangements for carpools to the Succulent Extravaganza at Succulent Gardens in Castroville on September 26. Several people commented on events being organized by some of **Jan Moon's** friends to support the Moon Family, which has recently suffered some overwhelming problems. In addition to a GoFundMe page, Jan's succulent friends are having a plant and pottery sale for the Moons' benefit on October 17 at **Nick Wilkinson's** Grow Nursery in Cambria from 10am to 4pm. Please see the announcement in this newsletter about the Grow event and an additional event at **Ben Trogden's** studio with **Maggie Wagner**. After discussing the Brag and Plant-of-the-Month tables and the "opportunity" plants, a brief break was held.

Our Vice-President, **Kathie Matsuyama**, introduced our featured speaker, **Peter Walkowiak**, from Escondido. You might remember Peter, who is a genuinely nice guy, from the last Show & Sale where he was a vendor and also helped during the live auction. Information about Peter's history was included in last month's newsletter. His topic for our meeting was all about landscaping with succulents, and he illustrated his talk with photographs ... before, during and after ... of four of his landscape projects. He also handed out an outline of how to plan and prepare your own landscaping project. Copies will be available at the Greeter Table, run by **Mary and Harry Harlow**, who also took care of the Library Table in **Gene Schroeder's** absence. Thanks to them and Kathie, who transported the library books.

After Peter's presentation, the raffles were held, chairs and tables were put away, and the Plant Exchange was conducted. The member who required medical attention has fully recovered. Special thanks to Mary Harlow for her skills and knowledge.

The Board of Directors did not meet.

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

PLANT OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER

Aeonium by Dr. Charles Spotts

Aeonium. A European rosulate member of the Crassulaceae

Crassulaceae – the Crassula family including Echeveria, Dudleya, Sedum, Kalanchoe, Tylecodon, etc.

Rosulate – leaves arising in a rosette at the ends of the stems. Dudleya is an American rosulate crassula

Most Aeoniums come originally from the Canary Islands off the coast of Spain in the Atlantic Ocean, with a few oddball species from several isolated parts of Central Africa. The climate of the Canary Islands is fairly Mediterranean so these plants are perfectly adapted to many similar climates around the globe.

Most are moderately drought tolerant (though less so than most might guess), mildly frost tolerant (some more than others), but only moderately heat tolerant, and dependent on bright light to full sun. These are generalizations and there is certainly some variation in their water, heat and lighting needs.

Most Aeoniums are winter growers looking their best when temps are moderate and water plentiful. As summer approaches many will curl their leaves in and go into a form of dormancy, though in cultivation, given some shade and water, most will continue to grow actively, though perhaps less vigorously. Hot summer sun will damage Aeonium leaves and some will curl up as a protective response. These are not cold hardy plants and freezes will damage most species.

Most Aeoniums are monocarpic, meaning they die after flowering. For unbranching species this means the death of the entire plant and offspring are only created by germination of seeds. Some flowers are spectacular terminal events while other species have relatively insignificant flowers.

Aeoniums are ideal pot plants needing very little other than soil for support and water. Rarely does one need to fertilize these plants. If growing Aeoniums along the coast, the humidity and rains/mists will often mean they never need to be watered, but in dry climates they will probably need to be watered frequently or put on drip irrigation. They do not need to be thoroughly watered, though, as the main water-absorbing roots are near the surface with the deeper roots functioning nearly solely as support. Pot life also means one can move the plants in and out of good and bad weather situations. As mentioned already, these plants do not like heat, and high temps will often cause root death, and then plant death. So during high heat times of year, they may need to be moved indoors in a window (indoors in low light is also very difficult for these plants and most will quickly weaken and colors will fade). Generally Aeoniums perform better in standard potting soils rather than super well-draining and nutrient deficient cactus soils. Remember these plants do not like to dry out.

Some commonly encountered Aeoniums:

Aeonium arboreum is one of the more commonly available species, though most plants in cultivation are hybrids of this species. This is a bright green plant with a branching stem and is the 'classic' Aeonium with the moderate sized rosettes and somewhat thin, spoon-shaped leaves. It is a very easy plant to grow and cuttings can be rooted simply by taking a stem and shoving it in the ground. As plants get taller (will grow up to 6' tall or more, but usually collapse after that) and more leggy, limbs will often start falling off from weight of the rosettes. These can be replanted in the garden or in pots but some of the stems should be cut off. This species is relatively heat and cold sensitive with the thin leaves curling in heat or melting in frost. But generally the plants recover quickly.

Aeonium arboreum 'Atropurpureum' is the same plant but with purplish leaves that fade to green in shade but darken to maroon-purple in sun. This hybrid is probably the most common Aeonium for cultivation here in California.

PLANT OF THE MONTH CONTINUED

Aeonium arboreum 'Zwartkop' is one of the most ornamental of all the Aeoniums having nearly black leaves in full, hot sun, though these fade to purple in winter or shade.



Aeonium 'Garnet' is a bright red plant that is a hybrid of the Zwartkop plant and *Aeonium tabuliforme* that is a nice, low growing, offsetting plant with big round leaves and fantastic color in full sun.

Aeonium davidbramwellii is somewhat common in cultivation, but the hybrid 'Sunburst' is by far more common and sold just about anywhere Aeoniums can be purchased. This is one of the most variable species and even on its native island of La Palma in the Atlantic this plant can look very different in different situations.

Some plants are single stemmed and quite large, while others have numerous branches with much smaller rosettes. It has relatively thick somewhat rough-surfaced leaves generally with red or pink along the margins, which also are serrated with miniscule teeth. The hybrid Sunburst is quite distinct and a highly ornamental plant. It is nearly always a branching plant with rosettes up to 1' in diameter and various amounts of yellow, white and pale green stripes, often tipped with red or pink along the margins or fading to that at the ends of the older leaves. These plants are fairly easy to grow and more cold hardy than *Aeonium arboreum*.

Aeonium haworthii is probably the most hardy and easy to grow, as well as one of the two most common species in cultivation. It has thick, short, rough-surfaced leaves that are not flexible at all (without breaking) that form rosettes about 3" in diameter, and grows in thick, dense clumps supported on a multibranched network of thin, woody, rough-surfaced stems. This plant often has lots of aerial roots drifting down from its stems. Cuttings grow easily and quickly after being stuffed in the ground—this plant grows so well it could even be classified as invasive.

Aeonium haworthii 'Kiwi' (also called 'Tricolor') is another very commonly sold plant and another one quite easy to grow. *Aeonium 'Kiwi'* has yellow green and pink leaves that form durable rosettes up to 4" in diameter, somewhat larger than the rosettes of *Aeonium haworthii*. The yellow (variegation) is only on the newly forming leaves at the center of the rosettes, and older leaves are all green with a red-pink margin. It is a striking and excellent garden or potted plant.



Aeonium spathulatum is another somewhat rare species in cultivation with spoon-shaped small leaves that curl up in summers. It forms a low shrub on skinny branching stems with peeling bark.

Plant of the Month Editor's Note: This article by Dr. Charles Spotts was reprinted from the August 2011 CCCSS Newsletter.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Holidays are here again. I will have a sign-up sheet prepared for the December Potluck at our October meeting on the 11th. Please include your name, phone number, the number of people in your party and what you are bringing, main dish, side dish, vegetables, salad or dessert. The club will be supplying all ham and turkey. If you are not going to be at the October meeting please call me at 805-481-5596 or e-mail me at hupt74@yahoo.com.


– Pat Gilson
Hospitality Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 10-11** Moon Medical Fundraiser #1: Pottery, Succulent and Dish Garden Sale: 10am-5pm, 612 Sandydale Drive Nipomo. See page 6.
- October 10-11** Open Studios Art Tours; several club members are participating. See page 7.
- October 10-11** Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale: , 2015 10am-5pm @ East Hills Mall, Center Court, 3000 Mall View Rd #1178, Bakersfield, CA 93306 (661) 872-0000
- October 11** CCCSS Monthly Meeting, 2pm, Odd Fellows Hall
- October 17** Moon Medical Fundraiser #2: Grow Nursery Sale: 2024 Main Street in Cambria, 10AM - 4PM. See page 6.
- October 21** Moon Medical Fundraiser #3: Spaghetti Drive Thru Dinner, in Cambria at the Veterans Hall 4-7pm. \$10 per dinner.
- October 24-25** Palomar Show & Sale Saturday 9-5 Sunday 10 - 4 at San Diego Botanic Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas Info: hciservices@gmail.com (858) 382-1797
- November 7-8** San Gabriel Valley Winter Show & Sale - Ayres Hall, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia Info Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 Or John Matthews (661) 714-1052, Manny Rivera (626) 579-7954
- November 8** CCCSS Monthly Meeting, 2pm, Odd Fellows Hall
- December 13** CCCSS Holiday Party! Please sign up to bring a dish with Pat Gilson: 805-481-5596 or e-mail at hupt74@yahoo.com.

Join the CSSA

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

 Cactus & Succulent Society of America

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Succulent Extravaganza 2015

Wayne Mills, CCCSS

A fine group of CCCSS members met at the Succulent Gardens in Castroville as planned. Merodie Nelson and Marilyn Leaverich and Bill and Barbara Sheckherd were already there when Carol and I arrived just before 11. We caught the last of Deborah K. Baldwin's talk on succulents, then followed Robin Stockwell (former owner and now associate of Succulent Gardens) around as he discussed the merits of some of the various demonstration gardens that different landscapers had installed. A couple of the ones that impressed me are pictured below. I found a new cool succulent to acquire, but Robin didn't know what family it was in. I was told it was a "petalanthus", but Google led me to *Pediolanthus* which is a *Euphorbia*—a group that I am quite interested in. The one pictured is *E. Bracteatus* (I think). After touring the gardens and greenhouse, Carol and I headed for the gem show at the Monterey Fairgrounds—a full and fun day. I believe all the folks who showed-up enjoyed the show.



Barbara Sheckherd and Carol Moss



Euphorbia bracteatus (?)



Mandala Garden

MOON MEDICAL FUNDRAISERS

From Maggie Wagner

Jan Moon, one of our long-standing club members has recently been handed quite a life challenge. On August 9th Earl Moon fell off a ladder and injured his neck, and then a couple of weeks later Jan and Earl's daughter, Skyler got diagnosed with colon cancer.

Jan says: "Earl is improving everyday. The PT's and OT's are impressed. His mental and physical strength is helping him progress. He did feed himself for the first time today with a wrist band with a slot for a spoon that fits in. They have stood him up with spotters, for a short time. Like I've always said, this is a long journey. Earl is a well-liked patient and has made many friends. He has invited every nurse, doctor, PT's OT's, maintenance workers, his roommates and fellow spinal cord injury friends to our house in the future. Gotta love that guy. We are in the early stages of getting our house to ADA standards.

Skyler is still awaiting if she needs chemo or not. She started back to school and like her Dad only a positive attitude. Neither of them have ever complained of their challenges. We are, looking forward to the day we can play music, dance, sing, plant seeds and bird watch in our yard. We are so overwhelmed with what our community has done for us. Earl gets so emotional when I tell him what our friends have done for us."

A few of Jan's friends are organizing some fundraisers to help out: Pottery, Succulent and Dish Garden Sale:

The first event will be at the home of Ben Trogdon, an Open Studios art tour participant. Sat. Oct. 10th and Sun. Oct. 11th, 10AM - 5PM. Ben Trogdon and Maggie Wagner will have ceramic pottery and dish gardens for sale as well as a nice selection of succulent plants – the usual and unusual. There will be benefit tables where 100% of the proceeds will go to the Moon Family and Maggie is donating 50% of her sales. Ben and his wife Robin have a lovely home and succulent garden, so it is well worth the trip! 612 Sandydale Drive, Nipomo.

Grow Nursery Sale:

The second event is at Grow Nursery: 2024 Main Street in Cambria, Sat. Oct. 17th, 10AM - 4PM

100% of the proceeds from the benefit tables will go to the Moon Family. In addition, 25% of the sales from the day at Grow Nursery will be donated.

Spaghetti Drive Through Dinner:

An additional benefit – a spaghetti drive-through dinner in Cambria at the Veterans Hall – will be held on Oct. 21, 4 - 7pm. Dinners will be \$10 each and include spaghetti, garlic bread and green salad. Limited indoor seating.

You can also support the Moon family directly here:

www.gofundme.com/moonfamilymedical

SAT. OCT. 10
SUN. OCT. 11
NIPOMO



WED. OCT. 21
CAMBRIA

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUES NOTICE

The Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our members who renewed their club membership dues during our recent yearly membership renewal drive. Funds we raise through our membership campaign help us produce our newsletter and hold our monthly meetings, as well as offer field trips and other fun activities throughout the year. Your continued support helps ensure our Annual Show & Sale will be successful. For those of you who have not renewed your membership, this is the last newsletter you will receive and all your membership benefits have been rescinded as of September 30, 2015. But it's not too late to send dues now and to be reinstated as a valued member of CCCSS. Please contact our membership chairperson, Barbara Brooks, if you have any questions/concerns at barbarahbrooks@sbcglobal.net. Thanks again for supporting our club!

OPEN STUDIOS: POTTERY

Several of our members will be participating in the Open Studios this year.

Charles Varni will be participating BOTH weekends of October 10th/11th and 17th/18th at his home in Oceano with hand built stoneware planters and rare succulents for sale.

Ben Trogdon and Maggie Wagner are participating on the FIRST weekend only. They will have thrown and hand built ceramic planters as well as some plants available for sale. They will be at Ben's home 612 Sandydale Dr. in Nipomo.

Carol Mortensen will be showing her oil paintings of succulents the First Weekend - Oct. 10 & 11
1662 Knoll Dr., San Luis Obispo.

Richard Rowe says: "I'm participating both weekends. I'm sharing my space with Denise Schryver, a textile and 2D artist. We will be showing all manner of pottery, planted planters, weavings, pastels, drawings and more. My studio is at 387B Quintana Rd. in Morro Bay, 805 235 9721. Check my website, roweclayworks.com for a map and more information."

If nothing else, it is worth the trip to see the gardens at these homes.

You can also browse and download the catalog online by visiting the Open Studios Art Tour page on artsobispo.org.

NAME TAGS

When a new member joins CCCSS, Carol Moss makes a name badge for them and adds it to the big plastic bin that she brings to each meeting and leaves on the table near the entry so people can pick up their badges on their way in. The badges have unique photos of succulents found on the Internet, but Carol will put any succulent-related picture on someone's badge. It's helpful and friendly if members wear their badges – we have so many members now that it's impossible to remember everyone's name!

Please contact Carol for any special requests or replacements. carolmoss@gmail.com

SUGGESTION BOX

At our meetings, there is a Suggestion Box on the hospitality table for "members questions, comments, compliments (positive reinforcement works too)". All comments are reviewed by the CCCSS Board.

POLICY FOR ADS

This is your club! We would like you to have the ability to share your club-related items so your Board of Directors implemented this policy.

"6.1 Individual club members may be allowed to place an announcement in the eNewsletter for plant-related/club-related items that might be of interest to the members. There will be no charge for the announcement and it should be limited to 30 words, and can include an optional small picture, and contact information; it can run for one month with an extension upon a re-submission of the ad material. The proposed ad must be emailed to the Newsletter Editor 2 weeks prior to the next CCCSS Monthly Membership Meeting meeting. It might not appear in the print version due to space limitations."

SHOW PHOTOS READY

Our 2015 Show Winner photos are available for viewing online:

<http://TinyURL.com/CCCSS-2015-Show>

Many thanks to Gene Schroeder for the beautiful images!



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