

On the Dry Side

February 2015

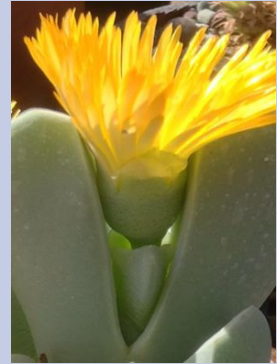
CCCSS January Meeting Recap

January 11, 2015

President Ken Byrne called to order the full-house, general membership meeting of CCCSS at approximately 2:00 p.m. on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, January 11, 2015. He welcomed the nine visitors who introduced themselves and received a welcoming succulent. The snack providers also received a succulent in thanks for their very much appreciated contributions. Imagine a break without all those delicious snacks ... NO!

Susan "Braids" Waidner announced that this year's t-shirt design contest will be held a month earlier to give us more time for the process. Designs will be displayed and voted on during the March meeting. Details of the trip to The Huntington were reviewed. Charles Varni announced that a club camping trip to a southern desert is in the planning stages, tentatively scheduled for March 27, 28, and 29. He said that there will be nearby accommodations for members who don't camp, so don't be discouraged if you don't have a tent!

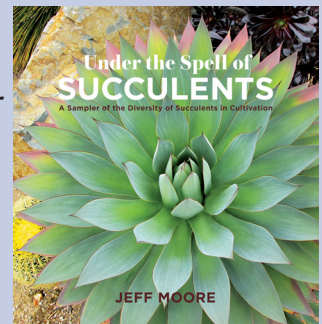
Plants on the Brag Table were described by Kathie Matsuyama and Rob Skillin and included some unusual flowering winter plants, including a gorgeous flowering mesemb (*Mesembryanthemaceae*) brought in by Loring Manley. Loring posted a series of photographs on our Facebook page showing it as the flowers opened. (If you haven't looked at our Facebook page, you should pay it a visit. It contains a wealth of information and photographs shared by all of us.)



Rob had some examples of winter-flowering plants, and there were a number of specimens of the Plant of the Month – *Tephrocactus*, a subspecies of *Opuntia*, that Charles and Joanne Spotts bravely transported to share at the meeting. They get special recognition for bringing in so many of these fragile cacti that fall apart with the slightest pressure. (Not surprisingly, there was a box-full of broken-off segments – they readily re-root – to be shared at the end of the meeting.) It was a flashback to the "good old days" when Charles Spotts took the microphone and shared his knowledge of one of his favorite species. Please refer to the article in last month's newsletter for "all you need to know," according to Charles. Rob described the raffle plants, including a selection of *Tephrocactus* donated by the Spotts.

Our featured speaker was Jeff Moore, who presented photographs from his book, *Under the Spell of Succulents*. He claims to be an amateur photographer, but his photos tell a different story ... they are stunning. Jeff's mantra for landscape design is "rocks, repetition and restraint." Jeff sold copies of his book as well as some collectible plants.

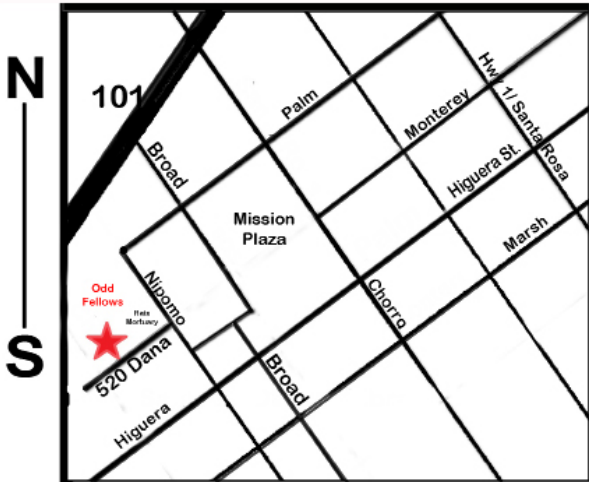
**FOUND: HAND-CRAFTED LEATHER JOURNAL FOUND
AT THE POTLUCK. CLAIM AT THE GREETER'S TABLE.**



Following the break, the raffles were conducted, the meeting adjourned and volunteers helped clean up and put away the chairs and tables. That help is always needed and always appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:



Sunday
February 8
2:00 pm

**THE ODD
FELLOWS
HALL**

520 DANA ST.
(off Nipomo St.)

CCCSS MEMBERSHIP

If you cannot make it to the meeting,
send your info to:

CCCSS Membership

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

barbarahbrooks@sbcglobal.net

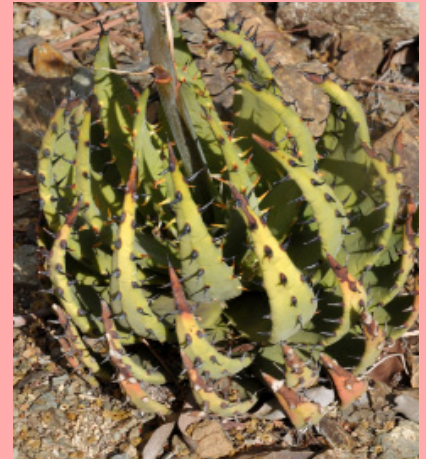
Membership: single-\$20 family-\$25
business-\$40

SPEAKER of the MONTH for FEBRUARY BRIAN KEMBLE ON WINTER RAINFALL ALOES



Aloe glauca

The genus Aloe is well-represented in many areas of Africa, as well as on the Arabian Peninsula and the island of Madagascar. However, only a limited subset of this large genus comes from winter-rainfall areas. In Africa, winter rainfall predominates in only 2 areas: the far north near the Mediterranean, and the southwest corner in the western part of South Africa and the southwestern corner of Namibia. There are no Aloes native to the Mediterranean coastal areas of the continent, but the southwestern corner has many interesting species, and these will be the topic of Brian's talk. The Aloes from this area range from diminutive plants such as *Aloe krapohlina* var. *dumoulinii* to imposing specimens such as the Quiver Tree, *Aloe dichotoma*.



Aloe melanacantha



Brian has been growing succulent plants since the 70's, and is currently Vice-President of the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society and a board member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He is the Curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, CA, and he has been at the garden since 1980. Brian has traveled extensively to see succulent plants in their native habitats, both in the New World (Mexico and the Southwestern U.S.) and in the Old World (South Africa, Namibia and Madagascar). He has contributed photos to a number of books on succulents, including The Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World. Brian may bring some books to sell from the Ruth Bancroft Garden's stock of titles.

If a member would like to sell plants at this meeting, contact VP-Kathie ASAP to reserve your space.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 8

February meeting CCCSS.

Feb. 14

San Diego C&S Society S&S, Balboa Park, San Diego (858-381-1797)

Mar. 8 - **Spring ahead!** Daylight savings time begins

March meeting CCCSS. Woody Minich will be the speaker; PDM: to be determined.

T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION

April 11 & 12

South Coast C&S S&S, Palos Verdes (www.southcoastcss.org)

May 2 & 3

Sunset SS S&S, Culver City (310-822-1783)

May 15 & 16

Long Beach Cactus Club S&S (www.lbscc.org)

May (22), 23 & 24

CCCSS Show and Sale

June 14-19

CSSA Biennial Convention, Pitzer College, Claremont (www.cssainc.org)

Flyer sent as an attachment to this newsletter.

Library Update

by Gene Schroeder

Over the last 2-3 months, partially due to the December Holiday Party, the library's list of outstanding/overdue books has grown quite large

Please, everyone, have a look about and return any books so that they may become available for others.

After the February meeting, I will be sending out email reminders since some people have been on waiting lists for several months due to lack of returns.

Cheers ... Gene

ANNUAL SHOW & SALE T-SHIRT CONTEST

This years Tee-Shirt Contest will be taking place at the March Meeting, so start thinking about your design now!

All artwork must be able to be in a "JPEG" format (NO HAND DRAWN DESIGNS). Try to limit the design to 4-5 colors for silkscreening purposes. Shirt color will be picked by the board members after the winner has been chosen at the March meeting.

There will be a sign-up sheet for those that want to **Special order Show & Sale Shirts:**

-Long sleeve **standard Tee-Shirts** (approx \$15.00) *or*

-Short sleeve "**woman's cut**" Tee-Shirts. These will be lighter weight than the Hanes "Beefy" T's. (approx \$11.00)

These must be prepaid by the March meeting! There will be a sign up sheet with prices at the February Meeting.

(No generic shirts will be available until after the Show & Sale) Braids/Susan email: braids97@sbcglobal.net

Campout for Members

The CCCSS is planning its first ever camp out for interested members at the [Mojave National Preserve](http://www.nps.gov/moja) over the three day period of March 27-29.

All participants must provide all their own transportation, equipment, supplies, and food--and inevitable sharing, potlucking, and borrowing are certain to occur. We will be staying at Hole in the Wall campground at 4,400 feet elevation which has drinking water, modern pit toilets, and no shade. All camp sites are on a first come basis. It also has fabulous succulent gardens on easily accessed trails. We will also do day trips to other interesting sites, traveling largely on dirt roads generally friendly to passenger cars (higher clearance preferable)--and folks are welcome to do their own thing during the day as well. The trip will be informally hosted by Harry and Mary Harlow, Mary Peracca, and Charles Varni. Please visit the Preserve website and explore it's offerings, weather, natural history, flora and fauna more completely (<http://www.nps.gov/moja/index.htm>). If you have any questions contact any of us.

Charles- charles@varni.org , Mary P.- maryper777@gmail.com , Mary & Harry- maryharlow50@gmail.com



PLANT OF THE MONTH---VARIEGATES

adapted by Kathie Matsuyama

When a green cactus or succulent develops stripes and patches of yellow or white tissue in its progeny, the unique coloring is called variegation. Variegation is a trend in plant propagation. This unusual feature is producing many new cultivars with very unusual color variations. Growers of seedlings keep a sharp eye out for unpredictable variegation in their stock because the variegates themselves can become a new outstanding variety. This original will be propagated vegetatively and sold at a higher price to collectors, the value depending on how rare that variegated individual is for that species.

All variegates are mutants. Something has gone wrong with the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. As a result of this mutation, chlorophyll is missing from some or all layers of the plant epidermis. Variegation is known in most plant families, and variegated plants have a place in most succulent collections as well as in the garden. The bright yellow and white of variegated foliage adds pattern and rhythm to many herbaceous borders. Or a beautiful variegated specimen can provide a phenomenal focal point in the landscape.

Variegated plants grow slower and are generally smaller than non-variegates of the same species. Colored areas are also generally weaker, and more susceptible to fungus, sunburn and other defects. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.

NATURAL "GENETICALLY" OCCURRING VARIEGATION

The causes of variegation in plants are several. The most common cause in naturally grown plants is genetic, though naturally variegated plants are for the most part uncommon. In the genera Euphorbia and Sansevieria there are a large number of naturally variegated plants in which the variegation is so stable that identification of the plant is often based on these variegated colorations. In these plants, the genetic material contained in the seed will breed true and all offspring will have the same or similar variegation as their parents. Further, the variegation does not appear to weaken the plant in any way nor does it even affect the plant's ability to tolerate hot, direct sunlight

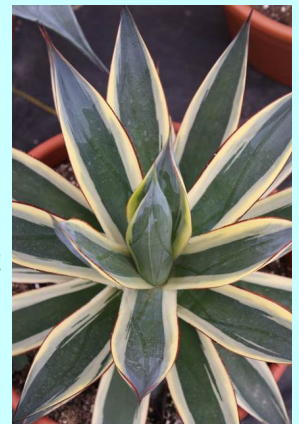
CULTIVATED VARIEGATION

The most common variegation found in cultivated plants is not naturally genetic, however, but due to aberrant mutations in the chromosomes of the growing, or meristematic tissues. Seed from these plants will usually not germinate into another variegated plant, though in some situations, the frequency of variegation is definitely increased over the random norm. In most of these variegated cultivated plants, the variegation mutation is bred for by selecting for the best foliage variants. This is done by division or other forms of vegetative propagation (i.e.; growing new plants from stem cuttings... root cuttings will usually not result in any more variegated plants than one would encounter randomly). Many of these mutated variants are consistent from generation to generation, but others are completely random. These non-natural mutations are known as **chimeras**, or the combining of two different chromosomal make-ups in a single organism (in this case, cells that do not produce pigment alongside with those that do). These can be fairly consistent from leaf to leaf, or sometimes the variegation will show up randomly on the plant with some variegated leaves or branches here and none there.

GREAT VARIEGATES

Agave – A striking variegated form, Agave parryi v. truncata, of the common garden plant Agave parryi, is well known but since it is slow to propagate it can be expensive. There are several forms of variegated Agave americana. There are forms with a green center stripe and yellow edges, a yellow stripe and green edges, a green center and white edges, a white center and green edges, yellow centers and crinkled edges, random yellow and green banding, and dozens more. Agave victoriae-reginae plants are naturally variegated. Other species of Agaves have also produce variegates, with the same numerous forms of variegation for that species. (Here is an excellent link to the variegated agaves:

<http://www.plantdelights.com/Photo-Gallery/Agaves-Variegated-Cultivars/Variegated-Agave/>)



Agave "snowglow" ⇨
by Kelly Griffin



Cacti - variegates can be found in many genera. Gymnocalycium are the most often seen, but some columnar variegates and some Ferocactus variegates are also common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated Turbinicarpus, Astrophytum, Matucana and Ariocarpus also exist. Many of these are artificially propagated by grafts. The famous 'Red Caps' and 'Yellow Caps' are Gymnocalycium or Lobivia variegates that have no chlorophyll at all, and live only by being grafted onto a root stock. These are harder to grow well than they appear.

⇨
Gymnocalycium
beunekerii variegated

POM Variegates Continued



Sansevieria - There are dozens of named and unnamed varieties. Look for Bantel's Sensation, Futura, Silver Moon, Silver Princess, and variegated varieties of some of the cylindrical forms. Unlike normal Sansevierias, these can be difficult to grow. They will not tolerate cold and wet conditions. Sansevieria variegates can only be propagated through the tuber. Cuttings of the leaves will root, but will almost always revert to an unvariegated form. On the other hand, normal Sansevierias will often put out a variegated pup. These should be removed from the main plant and the pup grown on their own roots to reserve the variegation.

← *Sansevieria pinguicula variegata*



Gasteria 'shozodan' →

Gasteria - The Japanese have made an art of Gasteria and Haworthia variegated cultivation. Miniature white species, yellow species, even the occasional pink can be found. Look for Gasteria 'Little Warty', a nice white and green species, as well as many of the yellow and green species such as the Japanese hybrid Gasteria 'shozodan'.



← *Euphorbia ammak variegata*

Euphorbia - A number of columnar variegates are available, E. ammak, being one most often seen. E. vallisneria, E. pseudocactus, E. stellata, and E. lactea are examples of naturally genetically variegated succulents.

Haworthia maughanii variegata →



Haworthia - 'Gray Ghost' is a Haworthia retusa variegata. There are several Haworthia limifolia variegates that look as if they were painted with mustard. Offsets are produced on the flower stalks. These offsets are variegated, as are the flowers themselves.

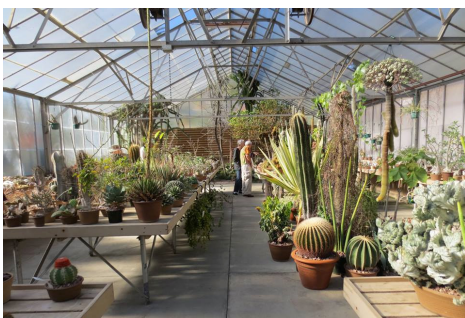


Crassulaceae - Aeonium 'Kiwi' is one of the many variegates found and propagated in this large family.

← *Aeonium 'Kiwi'*

Reference: G. Rowley, Teratopia Tom Glavich, June 2008

BUS TRIP TO THE HUNTINGTON



Well before dawn on Saturday, January 17, the "northern" contingent boarded the bus at the old Big 5 in Madonna Plaza and then picked up our "southern" buddies at the Pismo Outlets, where we found the huge amount of goodies that Ken and Ann put together to keep us happy ... it worked! At The Huntington, the aloes were spectacular, and we were granted the opportunity to purchase some wonderful plants. We also were admitted to the Desert Conservatory to see the more delicate species. The trip was available to "members only" for the nominal fee of \$10 ... quite a bargain for a thoroughly pleasant day.

Ken and Ann did an amazing job. Assembling the food and drink for one of these trips is a major undertaking that needs at least two people in the same household to accomplish, and even then it is a really big job, so if you were on the trip (or not!), please remember to thank them for their efforts. The Skillins were unable to go on the trip but also went out of their way in making the trip successful. Terry Skillin made the bus arrangements and Rob delivered raffle plants to Wayne. Rob, Gene, and V.P Kathie donated raffle plants that Wayne distributed on the trip. Barbara, Loring and Carol kept us labeled and organized. Thanks to everyone who made the trip work. te/cm



Club Officers

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

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. The latest special photos included a potter's work and a painting by the member's daughter. Recently, all badges belonging to former members (e.g., an unpaid current membership) were removed from the bin. 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

Board of Directors

JANUARY 11, 2015

After the general meeting adjourned, the following members assembled for the BOD meeting: Barbara Brooks, Ann Byrne, Ken Byrne, Kathie Matsuyama, Wayne Mills, Carol Moss, Markus Mumper, Gene Schroeder, Rob Skillin, Terry Skillin, Maggie Wagner, and Charles Varni. New member Don Estes spoke to the BOD about his self-published book on succulents and the BOD agreed with his request to dedicate the book to CCCSS.

The Board discussed the tally of club members, reported to be around 230! Maggie Wagner gave the Treasurer's report. Details of the Annual Activity Report for CSSA were discussed. Ken will sign the report and Maggie will submit it. The rental agreement with the Odd Fellows was discussed. We have paid a year's rent through June 30, 2015. We will advise Tim (OFH manager) that we intend to continue meeting here. Charles Varni said that he will present a survey to the membership at the February meeting. It was reported that 48 members had signed up for the trip on January 17 – a full bus. The health issues of the Editor and Secretary last year suggested the need for a "job description" written by each board member and volunteer so that filling in for board members would be easier. Barbara found a detailed form on line that she modified and distributed as an aid in considering what is important to include in a brief summary of each person's functions.

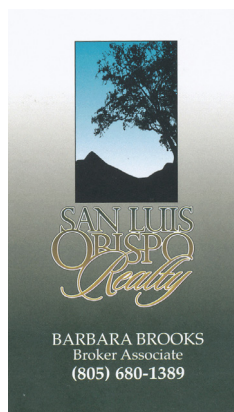
Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

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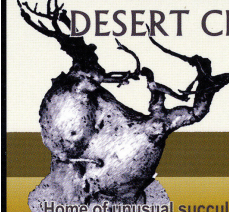


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