

On the Dry Side

JUNE 2013



CCCSS May Meeting Recap

5/12/2013

President Charles Varni opened the general membership meeting of CCCSS in the meeting room of the San Luis Obispo City/County Library on May 12, 2013, and welcomed our first-time visitors and thanked the members who provided snacks for the break. All of them received a free succulent in thanks and recognition. Tee-shirts and entry cards for the upcoming show and sale were discussed and Charles presented the slate of candidates for positions on the Board of Directors.

The nominating committee recommended the following:

Members-at-Large (2) / Jim Harlow and Harry Harlow [they are not related, by the way], Hospitality / Pat Gilson, Publicity / Nancy Lynn Greene, Newsletter Editor / Terry Excell, Treasurer / Maggie Wagner, Secretary / Carol Moss, Vice-President / Kathie Matsuyama, and President / Charles Varni. Rob Skillin will remain the club's representative to CSSA. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate of candidates was elected by acclamation. We welcome our new board members, Nancy and Kathie, and thank them for volunteering their service. We also want to thank our continuing board members and the two members who resigned after years of significant service to CCCSS, Markus Mumper and Wayne Mills. SALUD!

Markus Mumper, author of this month's On the Dry Side article for the Plant-of-the-Month, and Rob Skillin discussed *Rebutia*. This popular cactus comes from the Andes in South America and includes *Sulcorebutia*. They like sun; they tend to be winter/summer dormant, and bloom in many fabulous colors, usually beginning in spring. Backing off on watering when they are blooming seems to encourage more blooms. They are easy to take care of and require repotting in bigger pots with fresh soil as many readily form ever-expanding clumps.

Other announcements included an announcement that the next auction of Charles Spotts' succulents will be later in the year. Wayne Mills put an *Astrophytum* on the Brag Table as an example of the quality and beauty of the plants and pots that were auctioned and encouraged attendance at the next auction. The other plants brought by members for the Plant-of-the-Month – some gorgeous blooming *Rebutias*, among others – and the Raffle plants were discussed. Susan Waidner reported on the new items for sale: the 2013 shirts (gorgeous!) at \$15, black tote bags with club logo at \$2, and caps, with a yet-to-be-determined price.

Our featured speaker this month was Ken Levine, a Founding Friend of the Botanical Gardens, who presented a slide show of his trip to the Canary Islands. One of the bonuses of our meetings, and our speakers in particular, is that you often learn some fascinating random facts along with the more pertinent stuff. It was interesting to learn that the Canary Islands are actually named for dogs – canine ... canary ... get it? Canary birds are named for the Canary Islands, one set out of three sets of islands off the west coast of Africa. A somewhat odd characteristic of the climate there is a phenomenon called horizontal precipitation which is actually a type of fog that is horizontal due to the geography. The volcanic islands all lie on one fault and their "soil" is lava. Their farming is done on terraces because there is no flat land. The climate is Mediterranean. Many residents left the islands and resettled in Cuba.

The meeting was adjourned at the conclusion of the raffles.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Moss, Secretary

MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

BY CHARLES VARNI

What a fantastic show and sale we had over Memorial Day weekend—and it only happened because of the dedicated, hard working, super responsible member volunteers who worked hundreds of collective hours to create the experience. We received an enormous amount of appreciative and positive comments from attendees who so enjoyed the diversity and depth of the show plants as well as the opportunity to purchase such wonderful plants. This event is our primary fundraiser for the club and after we pay all the vendors their 75% share of the sales, cover our costs for rental of space and equipment, our club will be adding about \$10,000 to the treasury in support of club activities for our membership. And by activities I am referring to our monthly meetings and speakers, plant raffles, fieldtrips, special educational events, donations to community groups, and other succulent enhancing endeavors.

Our June meeting will be focused on awards and recognition for show winners and key members who worked so hard to create the event as well as an educational seminar we have titled "Succulents 101" which will cover the basics of growing cactus/succulents in both the landscape and containers. We anticipate a new wave of members and interested persons at this meeting so please extend to them the warm welcome our club is known for. As one of the more experienced plant vendors said to me on Sunday, "You know Charles, I go to quite a number of club sales around the state and you guys are the most friendly group I know. It's easy to see you all really have fun with this!" That's us—a bunch of succulent lovers just wanting to have fun (apologies to Cyndy Lauper).

NEXT MEETING:

Sun. June 9 at
2:00 pm

NO PLANT OF THE
MONTH THIS MONTH

San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

NAME TAGS

Name tags for members who joined CCCSS in January or later are in the accordion file at the front desk. If you don't have a name tag or would like a new one, please contact Carol at:

carol.moss@gmail.com

She will put one in the file for you the following meeting. Carol will put a personal succulent photo on it if you send one to her.

PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

Cactus and Other Succulent Cultivation 101

The CCCSS will present means and methods for cultivating cacti and other succulents.

Among the topics discussed will be:

- Light Air and Water, what is the best compromise.
- Soil mediums, pot shape, size and materials.
- Fertilizers recommendations.
- What are the benefits of acidifying irrigation water?
- Insect pests and how to treat them.

Please come prepared with any other questions that you have and we will try to answer them.

It Is Membership Renewal Time

Our year now starts July !!

The dues are now:

\$20 for individuals

\$25 for families

\$40 for business members

(allows a business size ad in the Newsletter).

See Maggie to renew for 2013/2014.

OR Mail to:

CCCSS

c/o Maggie Wagner

780 Merced Street

Pismo Beach, CA, 93449

Upcoming Events

June 8-9

San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society Show & Sale. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park. Info: brianskemble@hotmail.com sfsucculent.org

June 15 to 20

CSSA 35th Biennial Convention. Austin, TX <http://CSSA2013.com>

June 28-30

CSSA Annual show & Sale. Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Plant sales: Fri to Sun; Show: Sat and Sun. For information: 626-405-2160 or 2277.

July 20

CCCSS volunteer appreciation trip to Ojai. See blurb below.

July 26-28

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale. Fri/Sat 9-5, Sun noon to 4pm. Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. For info: 949-212-8417.

August 17-18

28th Annual Intercity Show & Sale, 9am to 5pm. LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. For info: Tom Glavich: 626-798-2430 or John Matthews: 661-297-5364.

August 31

Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium. Info: 626-405-2160.



Agave "Snowglow"

CCCSS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION TRIP TO OJAI

The volunteer appreciation trip to Ojai (Desert Images Nursery and the Australian Nursery) will be on Saturday, July 20th. CCCSS members (and family members for those with Family memberships) who volunteered for the S&S pay \$15 per head; all other CCCSS members (and family) pay \$25 per head. Cash or checks made out to CCCSS. Contact Jim Harlow at the meeting or

harlowj2@gmail.com

550-6660.



Turbinicarpus krainzianus



Haworthia Collection





Euphorbia bupleurifolia



Sansevieria suffruticosa

2013 Show Awards

Permanent Plaque	Best in Show Awards Winning Entry	Entrant	
Open Class -Best Cactus	<i>Turbinicarpus krainianus</i>	Rob Skillin	
Open Class -Best Succulent	<i>Pseudolithos miguirtinus</i>	Rob Skillin	
Advanced Class -Best Cactus	<i>Cephalocereus senillis</i>	Mary Peracca	
Advanced Class-Best Succulent	<i>Foclea crispa</i>	Kathie Matsuyama	
Novice Class -Best Cactus	<i>Chamecereus silvestrii hybrid</i>	Louise Faught- Rookie	
Novice Class -Best Succulent	<i>Asclep or Adenia (waiting for bloom)</i>	Sheri Swall	<i>C. silvestrii hybrid</i>
2013	Sponsored Awards Winning Entry	Entrant	Sponsor
Best Baja Native Entry	<i>Euphorbia misera</i>	Jan Moon	Grow Nursery
Best Caudiciform Entry	<i>Cibirhiza albersiana</i>	Rob Skillin	Dale & Barb Yarnold
Best Collection	<i>Haworthia collection</i>	Maggie Wagner/Markus Mumper	Gene Schroeder
Best Chihauhan Desert Cacti	<i>Ariocarpus retusus</i>	Rob Skillin	Rob Skillin
Best Rookie Entrant	<i>Lophocereus monstrore 'totem pole'</i>	Nancy Greene	Pat Gilson
Best Staged Entry	<i>Operculicarya decaryi</i>	Nick Wilkinson-GROW	Grow Nursery
Best Crested Entry	<i>Strombocactus disciformis crest</i>	Rob Skillin	Ellen & Gary Stubblefield
Best Agavaceae	<i>Yucca endlichiana</i>	"Snake"	Loring Manley
Best Aloeaceae	<i>Gasteria batesiana</i>	Terry Excell	Mary Peracca
Best Crassulaceae	<i>Andromischus herrei</i>	Rob Skillin	Bud & Ev's C & S
Best Dish Garden	<i>Dish garden</i>	Kimberly Kaufhold	Mary Harlow
Best Echeveria	<i>Echeveria hybrid</i>	Claudette Rettig	Wayne Mills
Best Euphorbia	<i>Euphorbia bupleurifolia</i>	Nick Wilkinson-GROW	Christy Keeling
Best Gymnocalycium	<i>Gymnocalycium bayerianum</i>	"Snake"	Carol Moss
Best Haworthia	<i>Haworthia cooperii 'Japan'</i>	Maggie Wagner/Markus Mumper	Maggie & Markus
Best Mammillaria	<i>Mammillaria pettersonii</i>	Richard Deming	Kathie Matsuyama
Best Mesemb	<i>Pleiospilos bolusii</i>	Jan Moon	John Goetz
Best Sansevieria	<i>Sansevieria suffruticosa</i>	Charles Varni	Charles Varni
Clerk's & Committee Choices Ribbons Awarded to Outstanding Specimens			
Award #1	<i>Echinocereus stramineus</i>	Richard Deming	
Awards 2	<i>Opuntia basilaris</i>	Martha Fasching	
Award #3	<i>Rhipsalis cereuscula</i>	Terry Excell	
Award #4	<i>Adenium somalense</i>	Rob Skillin	
Award #5	<i>Adenium arabicum</i>	Nick Wilkinson- GROW	
Award #6	<i>Pelargonium sidoides</i>	Nick Wilkinson- GROW	
Award #7	<i>Agave 'Snowglow' (KG hybrid)</i>	Terry Excell	
Award #8	<i>Pachypodium lameri crest</i>	Mary Harlow	
			<i>Pseudolithos miguirtinus</i>



Cibirhiza albersiana



Operculicarya decaryi



Best Novice Succulent



Cephalocereus senillis



Rhipsalis cereuscula

Special Recognition (A SAMPLE OF COMMENTS ABOUT THE SHOW)

To Everyone---- I was killing time awaiting my daughter's late plane from Denver to the Santa Barbara Airport and went to Terra-Sol Nursery (off Patterson in Goleta).The long-time Manager (Owner?) was there and told us he had come to our CCCSS show for the first time this year...and he was very impressed with the Show, the organization, and especially with the very, very helpful club people and how they treated all the customers.

Congratulations to everyone who helped -- So all your hard work was applauded (unsolicited!) by a very knowledgeable person who has been to many other shows!!! Ken and Ann Byrne



Nick did his "thang" as auctioneer extraordinaire!



Patrons enjoying the show!



Treasurer Maggie's new checkout system was a great success. Patrons had short wait times with the ability to ask questions about their plants.

LIBRARY NEWS.....

Gene is back in town! If you would like him to bring a book in to the meeting for you, please contact him at:

Leschroeder@earthlink.net 929-2161

He has completed the clubs book list; you can view it on line at the clubs website.

I mailed the pdf version with the newsletter last month, if you did not save it and would like a copy, please contact me at:

txlraiders@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

05/12/2013

Following the general membership meeting on May 12, 2013, and the cleanup of the meeting room (*hint, hint*), the Board of Directors of CCCSS met. The board authorized Treasurer Maggie Wagner to pay our webmaster for his services for the following fiscal year. The board discussed how Raffle plants are purchased and accounted for and authorized the purchase of plants at the upcoming show and sale for later use as reserve raffle plants. Jim Harlow reviewed plans for the "Ojai Trip" which will visit Desert Images with wholesale prices for us, and Australian Nursery where we will receive a 10 percent discount. The discounted trip price for volunteers who signed up with Pat and/or Loring and the full trip price for any remaining seats will be determined when more information is available. The special presentation at the June meeting will be our own experts presenting *Succulents & Cactus101*, just in time to find out how to give some good old cactus love to those new plants we acquire at the show and sale.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Moss, Secretary

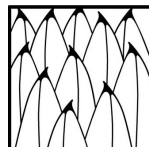
T-SHIRTS AND CAPS

There will be Show Shirts and the "Generic CCCSS" t-shirts available at the meeting. We also ordered hats per members request. The shirts are \$10 and the hats are \$12.



These items sold well at the S&S so get them early for best selection.

Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
On the web at: <http://centralcoastcactus.org/>



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

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Leschroeder@earthlink.net
929-2161

CULTIVATION CORNER

Do you want to grow plants like this?

Rob Skillin has 2 cu.ft. bags of coir available (coir is an all-natural coconut fiber). It's the loose kind – not a brick. Very easy to use and he thinks it's the best organic component for potting mixes. He is selling them at his cost - \$10/bag just to clear a bunch out. Its cheaper even that getting them at a big commercial supply warehouse like McConkey's in LA. If interested call him at 709-3033 and he will bring them to the meeting.

Coir is suitable for any type of succulent, just mix it in an appropriate proportion with the coarse drainage material (perlite or pumice). Faster growing plants can use more, slower, less. The photo is of *Gerrardanthus macrorhizus* growing in a 50/50 mix of coir and perlite.



CULTURE TIP WEBSITES

Librarian Gene Schroeder suggests these websites for tips on plant cultivation:

<http://www.cactiguide.com/biology/>

or here: http://www.occss.org/?page_id=6

Important Announcement If You Are Planning to Attend the CSSA Annual Show & Sale at Huntington Botanical Gardens on 6/28-30

The Huntington is undergoing a large construction phase. Due to the fact that our entire event will be held within the operating grounds of the facility, the Huntington staff has no option other than to charge their standard entry fees for attendees to our Show & Sale.

Exceptions are made for members of the CSSA and the affiliated clubs. Please advise members of your club that they should wear their club identification badge or provide other means of identification as a member of your club when attending the CSSA Show & Sale.

IT IS VACATION TIME!

Your membership in the CCCSS entitles you to a California Garden Clubs, Inc. membership card. The cards will be at the front entrance desk at the meeting this Sunday, so pick one up if you are interested.

For a list of California gardens that offer CGCI members a discount go to: californiagardenclubs.com.

LOCAL EVENT CAL POLY PLANT SHOP

Cal Poly Plant Shop is having a SUCCULENT SALE.
June 7 and 8

On Saturday, June 8 at 12pm they will have a "build your own dish garden for \$15" workshop
Space is limited! Please RSVP by June 5 at 756-1106

Request for Help----AIDS Memorial Garden

My name's Lucas. I'm a Cal Poly horticulture student that recently joined the Cactus & Succulent Society.

I have been contacted by an Americorps team that is designing a succulent garden to be installed this fall at the AIDS memorial garden in El Chorro Regional Park. They've asked me to help them start propagating cacti and succulents, and I figure I'd start by asking if anyone could spare some cuttings (and maybe even tips on how to get them to successfully root). It would be a great opportunity for the CCCSS to network with the community, meanwhile benefiting the AIDS Memorial Garden.

My contact information:


Lucas Carlow

(805) 806-5753

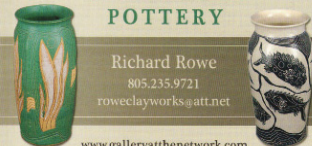
lucas.carlow@yahoo.com

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1079 El Camino Real Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 805.489.5514 • FAX 805.473.7263	1920 N. Broadway Santa Maria, CA 93454 805.922.1737 • FAX 805.922.6992

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