

On the Dry Side

MARCH 2015

CCCSS February Meeting Recap

February 8, 2015

Despite the welcome rain, we had a large turnout for our February meeting, which president Ken Byrne opened a few minutes after 2:00 PM on Sunday, February 8, 2015. We had nine first-time visitors who were rewarded with a succulent, as were the people who provided snacks (although some postponed their reward until next time).

Announcements: **Charles Varni** described the survey that was distributed to those in attendance, which the Executive Board hopes will provide guidance as to what our members want and how to spend the profits from our annual Show and Sale (S&S hereafter) for our benefit and enjoyment. As it happens, Charles has also volunteered to be the chairman of the S&S committee, which will have had its first meeting by the time you read this. Charles asked for signups by dedicated members who are willing to commit to at least one four-hour block of volunteer work at the S&S, scheduled for May 23 & 24, 2015, at the Ludwick Center in San Luis Obispo. [Please note that we may be forced to hold future S&Ss at another location. If anyone knows of an appropriate venue (large, convenient location, good interior lighting, ample parking), please let someone on the committee know.] Charles also mentioned a CCCSS camping trip scheduled for March 27-29 at Hole-in-the-Wall in the Mojave National Preserve. Contact Charles, Harry/Mary Harlow or Mary Peracca for more information. **Loring Manley** announced that he was giving away sheets of foam, and many people took some off his hands ... thank you for sharing, Loring. **Susan "Braids" Waidner** was taking orders for special S&S shirts (long-sleeved and women's cut), and announced the t-shirt design contest. There are specific technical rules for submitting a design ... see Braids for more information. **DESIGNS WILL BE DISPLAYED AND VOTED ON AT THE MARCH MEETING.** **Rob Skillin** announced that he and Terry will be hosting their second (annual we hope!) open greenhouse on March 28 from 10 AM to 3 PM. In addition to tours of his greenhouses, there will be plants for sale and refreshments ... a party!

Kathie Matsuyama and Rob described the plants on the Brag Table and Plant of the Month, with assistance from the owners and also from our featured speaker. Plants were contributed by the Spotts, Rob, Paula Jaster; also Donna Duerk, Claudette Rettig, Terry Excell, Ken and Ann Byrne and Markus and Maggie. The POM was variegates and some outstanding examples were shared. We appreciate the time and effort it takes to bring in plants for these parts of the program. Rob also described the plants included in the drawings.



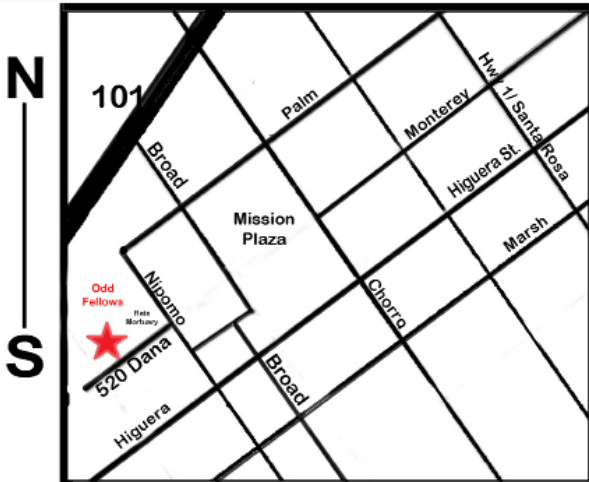
Our featured speaker was Brian Kemble who spoke on winter-rainfall aloes and showed photos of aloes from the southwestern corner of South Africa and the southwestern corner of Namibia. Brian is the Curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, which is being considered as a possible future club-sponsored trip to the Bay Area.

Following the break, the drawings were conducted and the meeting adjourned.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS MARCH 8**

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:



**Sunday
March 8
2:00 pm DST**

**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 MARCH

WOODY MINNICH

MADAGASCAR: THE PLANTS, PEOPLE & PLACES



Madagascar is a special place, an island in many respects, where the plants, people and animals are as unusual as anywhere in the world. This presentation will feature most of the succulent plants that we find so special. It will also address its most fascinating people, the Malagasy, with their intriguing heritage from the Malaysian, Arabian and African regions. Also, their many wonderful landscapes and biological regions vary from moderately high mountains to the rolling hills of grasses and inselbergs, to the dynamic canyons and geologically special places of rugged treacherous limestone, to dense jungles. Because this island is so isolated from the main continent of Africa, its endemism of plants and animals, estimated at

6,400 species, is also very remarkable. One could spend a lifetime roaming this special island and not see it all.

The plants from Madagascar are considered to be most spectacular, especially the succulents, palms, orchids and carnivorous genera. The succulent plants are notably diverse and range from giants to geophytes, which include such spectacular genera as: *Adansonia*, *Adenia*, *Alluaudia*, *Aloe*, *Commiphora*, *Cyphostemma*, *Didierea*, *Euphorbia*, *Kalanchoe*, *Moringa*, *Pachypodium*, *Senecio* and *Uncarina*. There are also many fine genera of palms including such icons as the Travelers Palm, the giant noble blue palm *Bismarkia nobilis* and the famous bottle palm *Chrysalidocarpus deciepens*. The orchid species total more than 1,000 and many are considered some of the most unusual in the world. The carnivorous plants range from the fascinating Pitcher plants (*Nepenthaceae*) to the amazing *Droseras*. It can be said that it is difficult to ignore Madagascar's tremendous diversity of plants, many of which are often growing side by side. Also, it can be said that it is very difficult to know and understand them all.

In my travels around the world, the people of Madagascar are some of the most fascinating and happy people I have ever seen. Their smiling faces and friendly demeanor are a genuine treat. Some of their customs, from their often very colorful clothing to their facial décor, are most attractive. The children are wonderful as they bounce around in a most innocent barefoot manor and always act as if they are excited to see everything. The soil that stains their feet and their windblown hair is very refreshing, and not one of them has an iphone. To watch the youngsters and old-timers all carrying their possessions, all balanced so well on the top of their heads, is also quite impressive. From region to region their facial characteristics seem to change and one can almost imagine their African, Malaysian or Arabian heritages. (cont. next pg.)



SPEAKER CONTINUED:

The places of Madagascar are also a real surprise. Large cities with paved roads are not common. The smaller towns and villages are truly exciting, as many operate with a simple barter or hand to mouth system. Imagine the USA 150 to 200 years ago, this is what much of the rural life style in the remote regions seems to be. Grasshoppers, river fish, tubers, rice and zebu- - - the staples of life! Outdoor toilets, bathe in the river and drink the same water, it is what it is! Since the French left Madagascar in the 50s - 60s, much of the infrastructure has had no repair or modernization. Thus, Madagascar appears to be a country in decline as many of the wild places are being destroyed to feed a populous of 22 million. They also have no major economic exports.

This is part two of the three presentations that I will be give on Madagascar. Part 1 is **Madagascar: Land of the Giants**, part 2 **Madagascar: Plants, People and Places** and Part 3 **Madagascar: A Disappearing Island**.

Brief Biography of Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants are often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus and Pachycauls in general.

Woody and his wife, Kathy, now live in New Mexico between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of our hobby and thus is an honorary life member of nine C&S societies. With 45 years in the hobby and 47 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.



ANNUAL SHOW & SALE T-SHIRT CONTEST

All Contest Entries Need to be printed out & brought to the March meeting to be considered!

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.

The club has chosen to go with a heavier weight, Hanes "Beefy" T this year for the short and long sleeved men's shirts. The women's design is in a lighter weight cotton.

Special order Show & Sale Shirts must be pre paid at this meeting (March 8):

- Long sleeve standard Tee-Shirts (approx \$25.00) *or*
- Short sleeve "woman's cut" Tee-Shirts (approx \$15.00).

For more information contact Braids/Susan at the next meeting or email: braids97@sbcglobal.net

(No generic shirts will be available until after the Show & Sale)

PLANT OF THE MONTH---ERIOSYCE

by Steven Frieze (reprinted from the LACSS "Chronicle" July 2012)



Eriosyce aurata (golden spine)

Eriosyce is a ubiquitous genus found throughout Chile in a wide variety of habitats. This plant group can be found in arid valleys and get much of their moisture from morning fogs and other light forms of precipitation. They can also be found in sandy dunes in close proximity to the Chilean coast, and in the Andes' mountains at elevations of 6,000 feet or more. It is a somewhat cylindrical plant with prominent ribs. Eriosyce are armed with dense very solid spines of varying color. The opportunity to see *Eriosyce aurata* with golden spines in the Andes is breathtaking. These plants can be up to three feet in diameter. Eriosyce has many features that make them a close relative of plants in the genus of *Neochilene* and *Neoporteria*.

Eriosyce are a relatively hardy plant that can survive for an indefinite period of time in the rocky crevices found in many Chilean valleys. In habitat, they are considered to be slow growing plants. Given the idiosyncratic conditions that Eriosyce face in Chile, one would expect the cultivation of these plants in Southern California to be a difficult, if not an impossible chore. With our frequent winter rains, fogs, and extreme temperatures (especially during the summer) this would seem to be a sizeable challenge for growers. Fortunately, Eriosyce are relatively easy to grow. They react well to the same well drained soil mix, watering, and fertilization schedules that most cacti are subjected to. They also tend to grow many times faster than they would in habitat since they will receive regular moisture and are protected from the extreme conditions that they would be exposed to in habitat. Some species can even be grown in the open ground, as long as the soil is well drained. They do tend to be slower growers than many other genera.



Eriosyce taltaensis



Eriosyce subgibbosa ssp. *subgibbosa*

Eriosyce can be propagated from 'pups' (division of clumps). Seed is available from the CSSA seed bank, and most cactus seed houses, and germinate quickly in the spring. They should be started in a moist potting soil, and moved to drier surroundings after germination.

Eriosyce are well worth growing and will produce spectacular plants as they mature.

References:

Schulz, R., **Copiapoa 2006**

Kattermann, F., **Eriosyce The genus revised and amplified**

Note: For more information about Eriosyce and photos of the 35 recognized species;

<http://cactiguide.com/cactus/?genus=Eriosyce>



Eriosyce esmeraldana

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8 - Spring ahead! Daylight savings time begins

March meeting CCCSS. Woody Minnich will be the speaker; PDM: Eriosyce. **T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION**

March 14-15

Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose Show & Sale, Peterson Middle School, 1380 Rosalia, Sunnyvale. 9-5 Sun. 10-4

March 27-29

CCCSS Mojave Campout (See announcement this page)

March 28 LOCAL EVENT

Skillin Open Greenhouse Day. 10-3pm. 8910 Camino Cielo, AG. (see announcement next page)

April 11 & 12

South Coast C&S S&S, Palos Verdes www.southcoastcss.org (see announcement next page)

April 18 & 19 LOCAL EVENT

Grow Nursery "Spring Spectacle" (see announcement next page)

April 26 LOCAL EVENT

29th Annual AAUW Garden Tour. Noon-5pm. (see announcement next page)

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 (Flyer attached to this newsletter)

June 14-19

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



Campout for Members

The CCCSS is planning its first ever camp out for interested members at the [Mojave National Preserve](#) 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>). Interested?? contact any of us. Charles- charles@varni.org, Mary P.- maryper777@gmail.com, Mary & Harry- maryharlow50@gmail.com



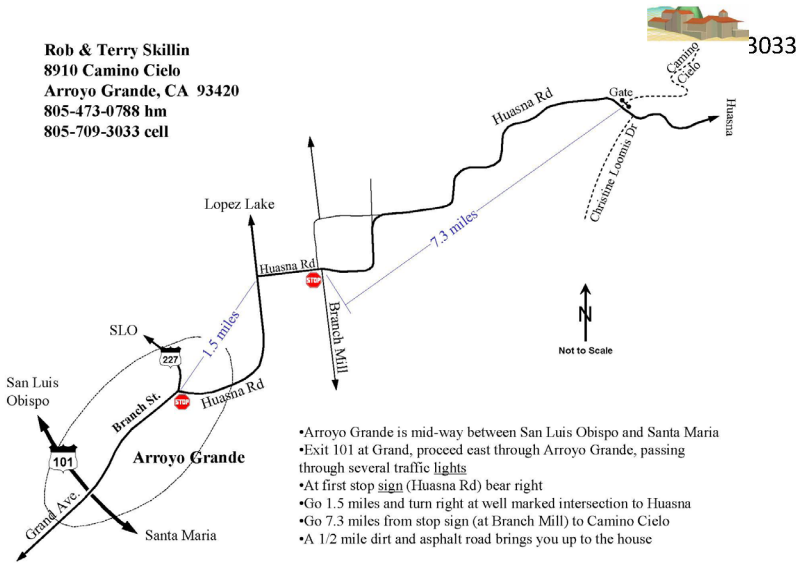


**Come Celebrate Spring
at the Skillin
Open Greenhouse Day**

Saturday, March 28th, 2015, 10:00 to 3:00
Skillin Ranch, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande

Enjoy a glass of wine and refreshments while touring Rob's personal collection of cacti and succulents. I'll also be offering a wide variety of plants for sale – everything from inexpensive starter collectables, to show-ready specimens – all propagated and grown on the premises.

Rob & Terry Skillin
8910 Camino Cielo
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
805-473-0788 hm
805-709-3033 cell



Spring Spectacle @ GROW Nursery

Come Celebrate Waterwise Plants for the California Garden
Saturday April 18th 10-6 & Sunday April 19th 10-5



Grow Nursery in Cambria Ca., is planning a special event the weekend of April 18-19. It is a celebration of Spring and will feature tons of unusual waterwise plants, including the magnificent blooming cacti of Plantaseca, who plan to have over 60 different species of cacti and it will be at the peak of their blooming season! The colors and the spectacle are something to behold. We will also be featuring the handmade pottery of several local potters as well as having tons of local growers there on staff to answer all of your plant questions.

FOOD + MUSIC + (maybe even some WINE or BEER) = FUN!

More info to come as we develop our plan of attack and work on bringing more fun stuff to the plan for the weekend.

Contact Nick Wilkinson for more information nick@grownursery.com

EVENTS



The Morro Bay Branch of American Association of University Women invites you to attend their

29th Annual AAUW Garden Tour

"Hidden Treasures"



Discover five charming gardens in Los Osos, Morro Bay & Cayucos

**Sunday, April 26, 2015
Noon to 5 pm**

\$10 per person (no pets)

Proceeds benefit community educational projects

Tickets available starting April 1st at:



or from any AAUW Morro Bay Branch Member

For more information: morrobayauw.org or (805) 748-4731



April 11-12, 2015 9 am-4 pm
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula

Show included with paid Garden admission: Adult \$9; senior/student w/ID \$6; child 5-12 \$4; under 5 free; Garden members free.

Aloe 'kelly blue'

Club Officers

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agaveken@msn.com

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

Board of Directors

February 8, 2015

Following the general membership meeting, the following members and officers assembled for the meeting of the Executive Board: Barbara Brooks, Ann Byrne, Ken Byrne, Pat Gilson, Terry Leivers, Loring Manley, Kathie Matsuyama, Wayne Mills, Carol Moss, Markus Mumper, Claudette Rettig, Gene Schroeder, Rob Skillin, Terry Skillin, Maggie Wagner and Charles Varni.

Maggie presented the Treasurer's Report and Barbara reported that four new members joined at today's meeting. The Board discussed how to deal with new and renewal memberships. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board agreed that any new member who joins in or after January will be considered paid in full through the end of the following fiscal year, which begins on July 1. Renewal memberships are due July 1 and should be paid for no later than September. Non-renewing individuals will be dropped effective September 30 and will no longer receive the newsletter or the member price for subsidized club outings. Dues are not prorated. Gene will add relevant language to the Standing Rules.

It was reported that an accountant has been tentatively hired and has recommended that CCCSS follow mandated rules for conducting raffles. A motion was made, seconded and carried authorizing the Treasurer to proceed accordingly. Charles reported that a majority of members completed today's survey which will be analyzed by Board members and the results will be presented upon compilation. The recent bus trip was discussed and it was reported that the accommodations were not comfortable for several people, including a member who uses a wheelchair. This will be a consideration for future trips. The Board discussed purchasing a projector and laptop for the use of speakers. A motion was made, seconded and approved authorizing Markus Mumper to purchase equipment, up to a \$1,000 limit. Rob and Terry showed the Board their new projector. Rob thought it might be a good model for the club's purchase.

A lengthy discussion about the show and sale ensued. The Show and Sale Committee, chaired by Charles Varni, who Rob mentored in 2014, will meet and make decisions as appropriate and will bring certain matters to the BOD for approval. Specific points included Wayne Mills' request that the tables he brokers for the S&S should not have staples inserted in them. Rental of the kitchen at the Ludwick Center (\$11/hour) was agreed to. Rob will be the lead in selecting which vendors to invite and in allocating tables and will present his recommendations to the S&S committee for its approval.

Terry Skillin will research details of a possible overnight "reward" trip for S&S volunteers. The Bylaws specify that the Election Committee will meet in February, to be chaired by the immediate past president, Charles Varni this year. A committee will be appointed and will meet as required to prepare for elections in May.

Topics including updating the Bylaws and Standing Rules, job descriptions and other issues were tabled due to the lateness of the hour.

The very lengthy meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 PM.

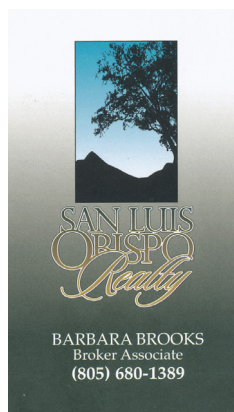
Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

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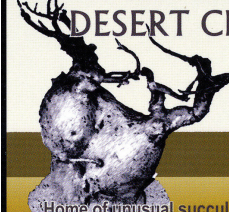


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