

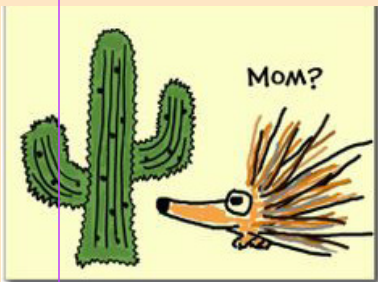
On the Dry Side

November 2014

CCCSS October Meeting Recap

October 12, 2014

On a warm and sunny Indian Summer day, shortly after 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 12, 2014, President Ken Byrne welcomed an audience that was smaller than usual. Our President suggested that folks chose the beach over our meeting, but a lot of our members were occupied with the Open Studios event. We had a number of members who volunteered to fill in for Board members who were not able to attend, including Barbara Brooks who filled in for Gene Schroeder at the Library Table, Loring Manley who filled in for Harry and Mary Harlow at the Greeter Table, and Markus Mumper who brought in the raffle plants for Rob Skillin. Markus went "above and beyond" even that when he drove all the way back home to bring in a computer for our speaker's use. CCCSS has the best volunteers and we thank everyone who pitches in so willingly month after month. More of this dedication was evident when Ken announced the people who had donated snacks – Carol Mortensen had left her Open Studios post just to bring in the food she had volunteered to donate, not even sticking around for her thank-you plant. After the other snack providers chose their succulents, we met our three new visitors and gave them a succulent in welcome.



Announcements included information about our December holiday pot-luck dinner. Members were asked to inform Pat Gilson about their attendance and contribution to the feast. If you have not already done so, please contact Pat ... now, more than ever – due to our larger membership – we need to have an accurate count of how many people to set up for and feed. We also learned that Susan "Braids" Waidner will have our logo products – t-shirts, caps and tote bags – available for purchase at the November meeting. Think of all your friends and family who are eager to have CCCSS branded items in their wardrobe and give them a gift they are certain to treasure. Mary Peracca announced that there was an opening on the Board for the Membership Chair position for someone competent

in Excel, and Barbara Harlow Brooks, following in the steps of her siblings (both Board members) volunteered and was appointed to that position. Thanks to the other members who were willing to take on this responsibility. It's gratifying when newer members step up to contribute to CCCSS and the Board is always looking for people to participate, so come forward if you have something to offer. It should be mentioned that anyone is welcome to attend the Board meetings that are typically held after the Board cleans up the building ... <hint> assistance straightening up is definitely appreciated! We ask each member to replace their chair at the close of the meeting, but lots more is necessary, so please keep that in mind.

Kathie Matsuyama was another member filling in for missing folks: Kathie presented the Plant of the Month and described the plants on the Brag Table along with examples of the POM that members brought in to share. You are encouraged to participate in sharing your plants. November's POM will be *Crassula*. The POM in October was *Rhipsalis* (don't miss Kathie's write-up in the last newsletter) and we had some nice examples shared by their growers, including Ann Byrne's large and old specimen, Terry Excel's *Rhipsalis* that she grows in sun, causing it to turn a lovely red (she says to add iron to its nutrients if you want it to stay green ... or grow it in shade to prevent the darker colors), and some *Rhipsalis* brought in by the Stubblefields. Markus then described the raffle plants for which he had assumed responsibility in Rob's absence.

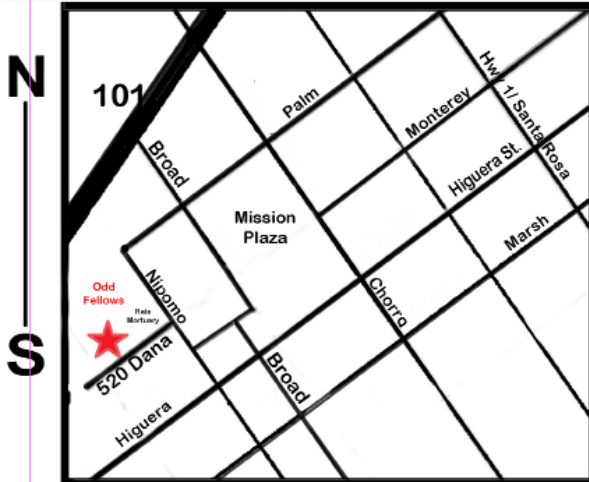
Markus set up the computer and our speaker, Paul Mills presented his program on Chile. Please refer to last month's newsletter for Paul's biography and a synopsis of his presentation, which featured many pictures of the succulents found in Chile, including *Copiapoa*, *Eriocyce* and *Eulychnia*. Pictures of *Copiapoa* were abundant – they are endemic to Chile and appear to be everywhere.

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

LET PAT GILSON KNOW YOUR INTENTIONS ABOUT THE DECEMBER POTLUCK

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:



Sunday
Nov. 9th at
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 Mary Peracca
4486 Sunflower Way
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

maryper777@gmail.com

550-6977

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

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

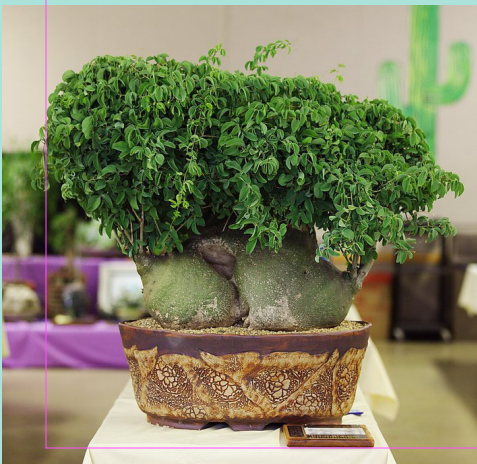
Peter Walkowiak

Soil and Staging Workshop

One of the most asked questions that I am confronted with is, "What do you use for your soil?" In this talk you will be presented with the different properties that make a soil mix work or fail. What materials to use or avoid. And why. Other aspects of soil such as PH, fertilizer, salts and wife's tales debunked. Questions are very welcome during this presentation, I want to share my wealth of information. Your success at growing your succulent plants is my goal. Also a brief talk on pest control will be included.

The final part of this talk will focus on staging your plants. Staging is often likened to framing an expensive painting, the pot is the frame, top dressing and rocks is the matting and the plant the picture. The pot offers many sizes, textures, colors, choosing the right one is important in the context of the overall design. Then the top dressing has many colors and texture. How do you choose?

I will demonstrate with several plants, couple of cacti and a couple succulents to give a variety of type of plants and styles that you may want to try. Time permitting, I will help with the staging of some of your plants. Just bring in a plant with a pot, (staging rocks) you want staged but are not sure how to proceed. I will help or do the staging for you. I will provide top dressing , if you have a special top dressing bring it.



Bio: Peter graduated in 1985 from Cal Poly Pomona with a B.S. Degree in Ornamental Horticulture. He worked as manager, production manager and section manager for three wholesale nurseries for 14 years. He ran a landscaping business for another 14 years, the last five years of which he specialized in succulent landscapes. During the landscaping part of his life he restarted collecting plants for his collection. This led to propagating plants from seed and thus the seed was sown for the nursery that he has now own and run for the last two years.

His interest in succulent plants really got going in college, 1981-82. By the time he graduated his collection had grown to 200. This collection has grown to more than 1,000 currently. The collection consists of cacti, euphorbias and caudiciforms.

He is the current president of the Palomar CSS and on the board for the San Diego CSS and the CSSA. He is show chair for Palomar's one and San Diego's two shows and co-chair for the Intercity Show.

Club Officers

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Rob Skillin

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

Board of Directors

October 12, 2014

The Board of Directors did not meet.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON THE HOLIDAY POTLUCK!!!

PAT needs to know **ASAP** IF YOU ARE ATTENDING THE HOLIDAY POTLUCK. She only has 44 sign up sheets and wants to make sure she gets enough turkey and ham for the attending members. It is always a great party with silent and live auction items (See below). Our new venue should be roomier than the past to make it more comfortable for all. We will, as always, need members to bring appetizers, salads, side dishes, bread & butter, beverages and dessert. We also will need people to set up, take down and clean up. Please think about what you want to do.

If you have any questions, e-mail Pat Gilson, Hospitality: hupt74@yahoo.com or call her at 805-481-5596.



REQUESTING ITEMS/DONATIONS FOR DECEMBER LIVE AUCTION



AS PART OF OUR WINTER HOLIDAYS CELEBRATION AT THE DECEMBER MEETING THE CLUB WILL SPONSOR BOTH LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS. ITEMS IN THE LIVE AUCTION ARE TYPICALLY HIGH QUALITY PLANTS AND CERAMICS VALUED AT \$45 OR MORE. THE CLUB TAKES A 25% MINIMUM OF THE FINAL SALES PRICE FOR LIVE AUCTION ITEMS (OWNERS CAN DONATE MORE IF DESIRED). SILENT AUCTION ITEMS ARE TYPICALLY NICE QUALITY PLANTS OR SUCCULENT RELATED ITEMS WHICH ARE DONATED TO THE CLUB.

IF YOU WANT TO HAVE ITEM(S) IN THE LIVE AUCTION PLEASE CONTACT CHARLES VARNI AT EITHER 459.6698 OR CHARLES@VARNI.ORG WITH DESCRIPTIONS, PICTURES, ESTIMATED VALUE OF YOUR ITEMS. IF DONATING ITEMS FOR SILENT AUCTION PLEASE SHOW UP EARLY TO THE MEETING WITH YOUR ITEM.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

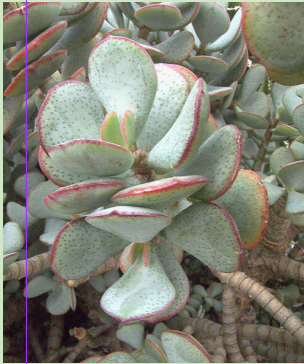
CRASSULA (Latin: crassus= thick)

from an article by R.J. Hodgkiss

The genus *Crassula* includes around 200 species of succulent plants, ranging in size from less than an inch in height to 6 foot shrubs. *Crassulas* are distributed throughout the world, although the majority are from South Africa and there are few truly hardy species. Many attractive dwarf plants are available to the collector. Some species are monocarpic and die after flowering, just as the plant achieves perfection.

While *Crassulaceae* will generally tolerate a wide range of light levels, the compact growth and leaf colouration seen in their habitat requires high light levels, preferably direct sunlight. Jade plants and other tender species enjoy a sunny position on the patio during the summer. As with other succulents a gritty potting medium is suitable. Overwatering encourages roots and lower stems to rot. If this happens, the stem should be cut back to healthy tissue, dried off for a couple of weeks and replanted in a dryish free-draining potting mixture. Many species will re-root easily. In frost-free Mediterranean climates, many *Crassulas* are suitable for the garden.

The main pests are root and stem mealy bugs. *Crassulaceae* were generally intolerant of many older insecticides, especially Malathion. I have seen no adverse reaction from watering *Crassulaceae* with systemic insecticides based on Imidacloprid e.g. Provado Vine Weevil Killer. This will protect against many insect pests but has little effect on red spider mites. Prophylactic treatment with Imidacloprid is advisable if plants grown outside during the summer are brought indoors.



⇐ *Crassula arborescens* (Silver Dollar, Silver Jade Plant)
This succulent shrub from the Eastern Cape has a thick, freely branching 6ft trunk of soft wood with thin, peeling bark. Branches are quite brittle but the fleshy, jointed stems root easily where they touch the ground. The glaucous-blue obovate leaves have reddened margins. The inflorescence is a cluster of white or pale pink star-like flowers, produced in Winter.

Crassula x "Buddha's Temple" ⇔

This charming architectural plant is an artificial hybrid between *C. perfoliata* v. *falcata* x *C. pyramidalis* created by Myron Kimnach in 1959. The greyish-green heart-shaped thickened leaves are densely stacked to form a square column up to 6 in tall. The leaf surface has a silvery-white dusting of powder which is liable to be washed off unless plants are watered only from below. With time, side branches may form along the column. Clusters of bright red flower buds are produced at the apex of the stems, opening to pale pink flowers.

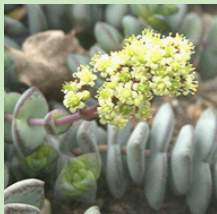
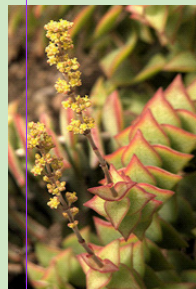


⇐ *Crassula muscosa*

The tiny leaves are densely packed around the branching stem to form a square or angular mass. In cultivation the leaves are bright green with a mossy appearance but in full sun adopt a bronze colour. Tiny white flowers are produced along the stem.

Crassula ovata c.v. 'Gollum' ⇔

This small shrubby succulent plant has nearly tubular leaves whose ends are indented like a suction cup. Flowers are similar to those of *C. ovata*. This plant may be a monstrose cultivar of *C. ovata* or a hybrid: *Crassula argentea* x *C. lactea*. Large numbers of these plants are propagated in the horticultural trade. It makes a great bonsai succulent.



⇐ *Crassula perforata*

Triangular, thin gray-green leaves with reddened margins and basally-fused in pairs are spaced out along the branching stems. The plants generally scramble along the ground although young stems are upright. Roots are fibrous. Distributed across the South African Cap and KwaZulu-Natal. *Crassula perforata* includes several former separate species.

Crassula sarcocaulis ⇔

This hardy sub-shrub has a profusion of small pink flowers during the summer. This *Crassula* is able to withstand the cold-wet English Winter, given a sunny position and well drained soil. It can also be treated as a bonsai and pruned to make a very nice specimen up to 12 inches tall. Any bit of stem stuck in the soil will root and grow into another plant. Distributed from the Eastern Cape of South Africa to Malawi and Zimbabwe. *Crassula sarcocaulis* ssp. *sarcocaulis* grows in the Drakensberg mountains. A white-flowered form (*C. sarcocaulis alba*) is in cultivation.



The Digital Library

by Gene Schroeder

Now that the days are getting shorter, we all should have more time to read so I am reviving this feature after some absence. The last few months have produced new editions of some of my favorite online journals. These journals are a look into the future of specialist publishing. Previously, this type of content has been available only by expensive subscription. Now, only a download away. Try them all. You won't be disappointed.

New postings include Cactus Explorers No.12 with an article about the newly described *Mammillaria bertholdii* – a miniature jewel related to the *M. saboae* group and discussion of *Selenicereus anthonyanus* – an epiphyte that some of you grow but have seldom see flower

http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/Explorer12/Cactus%20Explorer12_complete.pdf

Xerophillia No.9 posted in June but a great read with lots of habitat info and photos. No. 10 will be available by the time you read this -- don't worry, it bilingual including english

<http://xerophillia.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Xerophillia-09-lq.pdf>

Acta-Succulentia The outstanding Italian journal edited by Davide Donati, now offered in English – Links below to the last two issues.

http://www.acta-succulenta.eu/dwn/en/ActaSucculenta_2_2_2014_EN.pdf

http://www.acta-succulenta.eu/dwn/en/ActaSucculenta_2_3_2014_EN.pdf

The Cactician – a scholarly and technical journal by Roy Mottram. Most issues are heavy in discussions of taxonomy and botanical history but the issue linked below contains a fascinating article on Curt Backeburg, his history, background and contributions. If you are interested in cacti, you probably own one or more of his books and plenty of his namesake plants.

<http://www.crassulaceae.ch/uploads/files/Cactician/Cactician%206%20LQ.pdf>

And don't forget to look at <http://centralcoastcactus.org/library.html> where you can view our own library and even download your own searchable list.

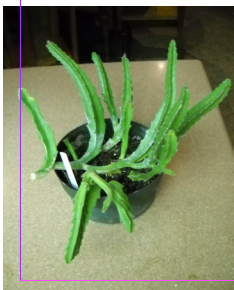
CLUB LOGO ITEMS AVAILABLE THIS MEETING



At the Nov. meeting Susan will be bringing all remaining Caps (5 Black 6 Khaki) Show & Sale shirts in M, L and 2-X, and generics in most sizes and colors, all of the above priced at \$10.00! Such a deal!

She will also bring 180 Tote bags at \$1 each (gift bag anyone?)

Christmas is coming! Buy now! (They will not be available in Dec. at the Potluck!!!)



Orphaned Plant

This *Stapelia gigantea* was forgotten about three meetings ago. If you recognize it, contact Wayne Mills wwmills50@hotmail.com

.... if it goes unclaimed as of next meeting, he is permanently adopting it as his own.



Upcoming Events

Nov. 9:
November meeting CCCSS: Speaker- Peter Walkowiak (Soil Basics and Staging)
POM- Crassula

Dec. 14:
CCCSS HOLIDAY PARTY. SEE ANNOUNCEMENT THIS NEWSLETTER.
No Plant of the Month or Speaker... just Food and Fun.

Jan. 17, 2015:
CSSA annual Desert Forum, Huntington Botanic Gardens and Library, Admission is free to CSSA members and members of CSSA Affiliated Clubs (wear your badge). 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA.



Crassula falcata

HOLIDAY Stoneware Planter Sale

Saturday, December 6, 1-5 pm
Studio and Home of Charles Varni
1745 Rochelle Way, Oceano 93445

Featuring hand made stoneware planters by Charles Varni and Maggie Wagner and possible other secret potter guests. You can buy great planters as gifts as well as show ready specimen plants in stoneware planters. This will also be a great opportunity to tour Charles' extensive succulent based landscape. <http://www.varni.org/gallery>
Ph 459.6698 or charles@varni.org for more information.



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 a new 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."

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