



CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

ON THE DRY SIDE



562 FB MEMBERS!
CLUB UPDATES & MEMBER PHOTOS

FIND US ON-LINE AT: www.centralcoastcactus.org

DECEMBER 2016

THERE WILL BE NO SPEAKER OF THE MONTH OR PLANT OF THE MONTH AT THE DECEMBER MEETING DUE TO THE HOLIDAY PARTY

HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Please remember we have a silent auction at our Holiday potluck. Please bring in the cacti and succulents, plus any other items related to our hobby, that you would like to donate. All proceeds from the silent auction go to the CCCSS.

Anyone who signed up to help set up for the potluck please be at the Odd Fellows hall at 12:15 and 12:30pm. We would like to start serving between 1:30 and 2:00 PM. Ken will be at the Odd Fellows by 12:00pm December 11, 2016.

Would anyone bringing food to the potluck please indicate if the dish contains anything a person with dietary restrictions or allergies might be concerned about.

This includes items such as nuts or shellfish, gluten, cheese or meat.

Let's all have a great time.

Thank you,

Pat Gilson, Hospitality chair

And Ken Byrne

AUCTION PLANTS

Reminder, Auction plants and related items (pots-n-art) can be auctioned off at the Holiday potluck (minimum retail value of \$40). If you would like to have an item sold in this auction, please send a description and a couple of photos to Bill Findley coolcactuskid805@gmail.com by Friday December 9th to have your item considered for the auction.

OUR HOLIDAY PARTY: SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 2PM

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

CCCSS: LAST MEETING RECAP

The monthly meeting of the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society was called to order on Sunday, November 13, 2016, by President **Ken Byrne**, who thanked the people who contributed snacks for the meeting and welcomed about ten first-time visitors. All received a free succulent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A survey was included in last month's newsletter, and copies were available at the meeting, seeking comments and suggestions for improving meetings. If you were unable to participate in the survey, feel free to send your comments and suggestions to President Ken Byrne.
- The December Holiday Dinner will begin at the regular meeting time: 2:00 p.m. By the time you read this, everyone planning to attend will have signed up with **Pat Gilson**, letting her know the number of club members in their party and their contribution to the potluck. Please remember to thank Pat for organizing and coordinating our holiday dinner.
- The live auction will be coordinated by **Bill Findley**, who will determine the items to be included in the auction. Please contact Bill *in advance* if you wish to participate in the live auction. The club will receive a donation of 25 percent of the proceeds, with the remaining 75 percent going to the donor.
- **Terry Leivers** reported that the recent hypertuffa class was enjoyed by all. A workshop for making grapevine wreaths was scheduled for November 19.
- **Kathie Matsuyama** passed around the donation jar for Penny Pines. \$68 pays for one acre of restoration to fire-damaged national forests.
- **Mary Peracca** announced a craft fair on November 19 in Santa Margarita, and another in Grover Beach which included potter **Alonzo Allen**.

PLANT OF THE MONTH/BRAG PLANTS/RAFFLE PLANTS: **Rob Skillin** discussed Tylecodons, winter growers that he is able to leave outside all year long. A number of lovely plants were on display. It was noted that South African plants were starting to leaf out. Regarding Lithops, do not start watering them until the new leaves emerge, and remember that they require a very small amount of water. Too much water will cause them to rot or grow too much. Never fertilize them. CSSA has a large seed bank which members who join CSSA have access to. Rob mentioned that caudiciforms ("fat plants") can be repotted with their large root exposed, but the newly exposed portion must be protected from sunburn.

FEATURED SPEAKER: We enjoyed a presentation by a presenter who had not previously spoken at a CCCSS meeting. **Jeremy Spath** shared photographs from his many trips to visit plants in situ, including trips to Mexico, Madagascar, Columbia, Vietnam and around California. His photos were mainly of dudleas, agaves and aloes.

Following the presentation, the raffles were held and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

HELP TELL OUR CLUB'S STORY

If you have any photos of the events sponsored by the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society, please mail them or e-mail them to Terry Skillin. She's working on a project for the club and needs YOUR help! Credit will be given if the photographer asks for it.

Terry Skillin, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420, tjskillin@gmail.com

PLANT OF THE MONTH: HOW TO GROW AND CARE FOR THE CHRISTMAS CACTUS

Schlumbergera buckleyi or *Zygocactus buckleyi*

The Christmas Cactus, *Schlumbergera buckleyi* or *Zygocactus buckleyi*, is a tropical Brazilian succulent that does not naturally exist in nature. It was bred from two unique parent plants that both grow in South American rainforests, specifically in Brazil. The plant is recognizable by its segmented stems and the brightly colored blooms that appear at the ends of them. Blooms are typically red, pink, purple, yellow, or white, and the blooms can occur at different times throughout the year. Most notably, they can appear near Christmas, which is where the name is derived. Since this plant is one of the rare plants that bloom at this time of year, it takes a bit of care to ensure that blooms do occur. This guide will give you all of the basics that you need to tend to a Christmas Cactus and help you make your home more colorful during the holiday season.

How to Care for Christmas Cactus

Christmas Cactus are not actually cactus at all; in fact, they are succulents. They do not require a lot of special care, but they do need to be properly maintained in order for blooms to appear. Let's take a look at some of the tips that will help your Christmas Cactus flourish.

Watering Christmas Cactus

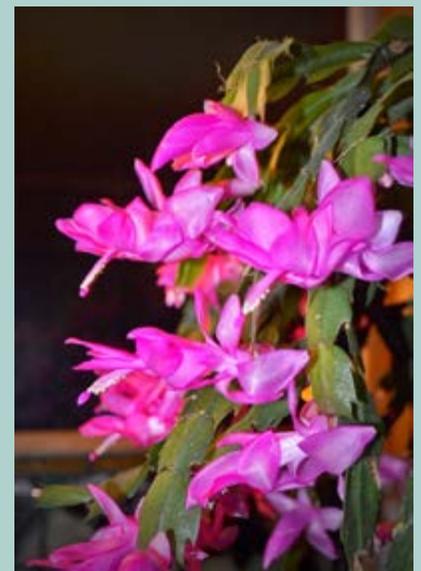
Like most succulent plants, it requires moist soil to grow; however, these plants do not like to be sitting in a pool of water. The best way to know when your Christmas Cactus needs to be watered is to check the soil. Once the top of the soil feels dry to the touch, water it again. Too much water can cause brown spots or root rot, while too little can cause issues with the blooms.

Soil and Fertilizer for Christmas Cactus

Christmas Cactus require soil that is well-draining, which means that a mixture of normal potting soil and fine bark works perfectly. You can also use sand or small stones in the base of the pot to help with drainage. Insofar as fertilizer, this plant should be fed every two weeks with a diluted liquid fertilizer. Make sure to stop feeding it about a month before the winter bloom, which typically means the end of the month of October.

Light for your Christmas Cactus

This plant likes a lot of sunlight, but it prefers indirect light. Direct sunlight can easily burn the leaves of the plant, so windows that are facing east or north are best. A Christmas Cactus is able to adapt to low light conditions, but it thrives in bright, indirect light.



PLANT OF THE MONTH: CHRISTMAS CACTUS

Temperature and Humidity Requirements

This is a tropical plant, so it requires a relatively moderate temperature and high humidity in its environment. They grow best in temperatures that are between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit, which is the average temperature of most homes. Christmas Cactus require 50 to 60 percent humidity, so if your home has drier air, you will need to create this level of humidity artificially.

Repotting and Pruning Needs

Christmas Cactus plants prefer to be confined to a snug pot where the roots are nearly too large for the pot. This lack of space for the root system actually produces the best blooms. This means that the plant will not need to be repotted more than once every two to three years. When the transfer does need to occur, never repot a Christmas Cactus while it is in bloom. Repotting the plant in spring or early summer works best, and it allows the plant time to settle before blooming for the holiday season.

Pruning the plant should occur about a month after the blooming period is complete. This will encourage the plant to branch out and start growing again after a short period of rest. To prune a Christmas Cactus, simply twist the stem between the segments on the stem and remove the section. If your plant is becoming unruly, then you can remove up to 1/3 of the Christmas Cactus each year without causing damage to the plant.

Propagation

Propagating a Christmas Cactus is easy, all you need to do is take the trimmed sections of the plant that you cut off during the pruning process and place them in a new pot of soil to grow. For the best results, propagation should be done in the spring of the year, and at last one segment of the plant should be buried underneath the soil.

Happy Holidays to you and your Christmas Cactus!!

For complete article and more information on the Christmas Cactus please refer to the Garden LoversClub website: <http://www.gardenloversclub.com/houseplants/christmas-cactus/care-for-christmas-cactus>



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 11 Holiday Potluck and Plant Auction. RSVP'd guests only, please.

BIG EVENT IN JANUARY: Huntington Desert Forum, Saturday, January 14th; Huntington Botanic Gardens, 1150 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA.

FIRST GARDEN GATHERING: FEBRUARY 25, 2017

At the October CCCSS Board Meeting, a new program was unanimously approved for club members to meet once a month in a casual, social setting in a CCCSS member's garden. As CCCSS continues to grow, it's hard to get to know many members. This will be an opportunity to do so with fellow succulent fanatics.

The purpose of the gathering will be to bring knowledge and to gain knowledge about cactus and succulents. Examples of discussion topics may include: plant care or plant identification; in ground planting ideas; plant palettes; container gardening; or other special interests of the homeowner or attendees. At least one member of the CCCSS Board will attend to help facilitate discussions. The host will determine the appropriate number of CCCSS members to be accommodated at their home. Sign-up sheets to participate will be available at the CCCSS meetings 1-2 months in advance. This is an opportunity for CCCSS members only. No non-CCCSS members may attend.

Our first CCCSS Garden Gathering will be held on February 25, 2017 at **Bill Findley's** home in Arroyo Grande. Thanks Bill for agreeing to be the first host!! Sign-up sheets to attend the Garden Gathering will be available at the December and January meetings. Bill can accommodate 24 guests in his garden. If more than 24 people sign up to attend, attendees will be chosen by lottery. Couples will be chosen together.

Are you interested in hosting a CCCSS Garden Gatherings in 2017? Only 9 spots remain!

If so, please contact Kathie Matsuyama at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net

You're not going to want to miss out on the fun!!



FROM TERRIE LEIVERS

The Grapevine Wreath workshop was lots of fun and folks took home their creations to decorate and give as gifts!

If you have any suggestions for other workshops, please email Terrie Leivers: terrieleivers@gmail.com.



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

Cactus & Succulent Society of America

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - DECEMBER 2016

Board Members Present: President Ken Byrne, Vice President Kathie Matsuyama, Secretary Carol Moss, Treasurer Maggie Wagner, Members-at-Large Terry Skillin and David Westberg, and Publicity Chair Wayne Mills. Also in attendance were Librarian Ann Byrne, Membership Chair Barbara Brooks, CSSA Representative Rob Skillin, and Markus Mumper and Terrie Leivers. Officers who were absent: Erin Stratton, Editor, Past President Charles Varni, Hospitality Chair Pat Gilson. [Please note that the notes were unclear about attendance, so this list may not be accurate.]

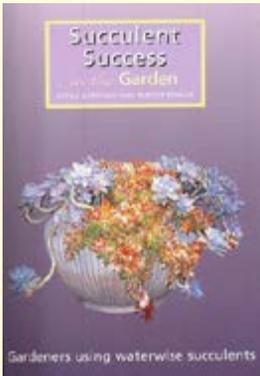
- Maggie presented the Treasurer's report. Maggie will ask the Odd Fellows Hall Manager Tim if he will allow CCCSS to store some club items on site. Maggie will send detailed financial documents to Board members. Quarterly taxes have been paid.
- Barbara reported there were five renewals and seven new members last month. She is working on newsletter issues where members are not receiving their copy by email.
- Book sales totaled \$153. The haworthia book is now sold out.
- The survey was briefly discussed. The general consensus is that meetings take too long.
- Holiday Party setup will begin between Noon and 12:30 pm. Another group has the facility scheduled for 6:00 pm on the day of the party – December 11, 2016 – so cleanup will have to be finished by that time. At the time of the meeting, at least 125 people had signed up. Nick Wilkinson will conduct the live auction, with help from Wayne. Markus assumed responsibility for the items related to the silent auction (forms, pencils, etc.).
- Future general meeting will include an announcement asking that cell phones be turned off and that people refrain from talking and making noise during meetings.
- The CSSA 2019 Convention in San Luis Obispo was discussed. It was suggested that at the January meeting members be asked their opinion about participating in this event, which will involve meetings, planning and many volunteers. Someone needs to volunteer to attend the next planning meeting in January.
- It was noted that Board members are allowed to spend up to \$50 for club-related materials without prior approval.
- It was suggested that lead time for sending out materials to board members be done using common sense.
- In order to begin the Board meeting directly after the general meeting ends, a Cleanup Committee will be organized in January and the meeting will not wait for Wayne to finish the Exchange.
- The issue of purchasing a wireless mic was again postponed. Tim, the Manager of OFH, is looking into a new audio system for the hall.
- Regarding CGCI, we are looking into obtaining our own insurance. Renewal is January 15, and the Board agreed to remain in CGCI for one more year. We have members who are attorneys and can assist the club in obtaining incorporation. Dues currently paid to CGCI would help offset an increase in insurance obtained from a different source.
- Rob will find out if CSSA can provide help in obtaining the required insurance.
- Terry Skillin is working on a presentation of our club history. Do we need a Historian?
- The names of people who wish to sell succulent-related items at general meetings where the featured speaker does not sell products will be added to a list to ensure members who are interested have a chance to participate.
- A back-up plan for Board members who are temporarily unable to do their duties was discussed. Prior to the January meeting, Carol will send out the job descriptions that were written up a few years ago.
- A new chairperson of the Show & Sale Committee will be chosen at the beginning of the year. Ken Byrne agreed to help if needed.
- Rob said that he has heard from our vendors that our show is the best in the state and that CCCSS has a great reputation in the succulent world.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

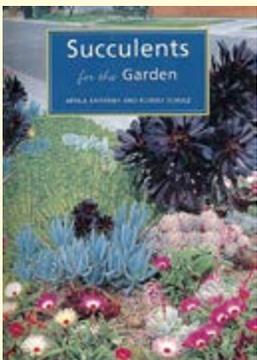
BOOKS FOR SALE

The following books (some in very limited quantities) are available for purchase with Cash or Checks only (no credit cards). They will NOT be available at the December Holiday party. If you would like to purchase a book for a Holiday Gift for that special succulent lover in your life (or yourself!), please contact Kathie Matsuyama at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net as soon as possible!



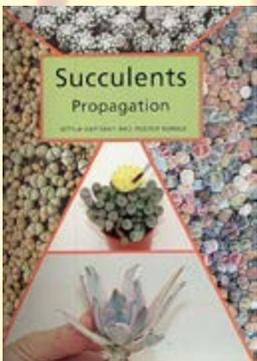
Succulent Success in the Garden by Attila Kapitany and Rudolf Schulz

Authors show how succulents can be used in the most amazing ways in garden environments: seaside gardens, hillside country, farmlets, and inland gardens, plus city courtyards, suburban nature strips and more. Recommended plantings of different species are given, showing flower color, shade tolerance, pot suitability, indoor/outdoor situations, and height, spread, more. Echeverias, sedums, crassulas, senecios, yuccas, aloes and many more are detailed and described. 303 color photos, 103 pages, 7-1/4" x 9-3/4", softbound w/heavy color cover. This book is out of print and will not be reprinted. **Price is \$26.00.**



Succulents for the Garden by Attila Kapitany and Rudolf Schulz

The authors show amateur gardeners what type of succulents can be used in the most amazing different types of garden environments. Areas covered are: seaside gardens, hillside country farmlets, arid inland gardens, hillside country gardens city courtyards, suburban nature strips, nature's garden and more. Recommended plantings of different species are given, giving flower color, shade tolerance, pot suitability, indoor, plus outdoor planting in warmer climates, height, spread, more. Echeverias, sedums, crassulas, senecios, yuccas, aloes and many more are detailed. 189 color photos, 95 pages, 7-1/4" x 9-3/4", softbound, w/heavy color cover. This book is out of print and will not be reprinted. **Price is \$26.00.**



Succulent Propagation by Attila Kapitany and Rudolf Schulz

Fifth in a series of books written about succulents for your garden and succulent care. Includes step-by-step information on how to propagate, utilizing bulbils, offsets, divisions, head cuttings, leaf propagation, seed raising, grafting and more. Includes propagation tips for 41 specific groups of succulents (including cactus) in alphabetical order. Both for the beginner and experienced succulent grower. 259 color photos. 109 pages. 7-1/4" x 9-3/4". Softbound. **This book was highly recommended by both Rob Skillin and Kathie Matsuyama at the June meeting.** This book is out of print and will not be reprinted. **Price is \$26.00.**



Under the Spell of Succulents by Jeff Moore

A brand new book with exquisite color photos – covering the full spectrum of cultivated succulents and how we engage with them—collectors, growers, landscapers, container gardening and more! Over 800 color photos, 230 pages, 8" x 10", softbound with a glossy color cover. A beautiful book at an extremely affordable price, this book is currently out of print. **Price is \$32.00.**

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