



CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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FEBRUARY 2017

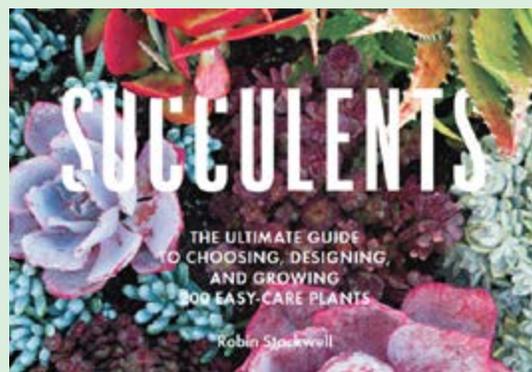
SPEAKER OF THE MONTH: ROBIN STOCKWELL

Succulents: The Ultimate Guide To Choosing, Designing, And Growing 200 Easy Care Plants

Robin Stockwell began growing succulent plants in 1972 and his work with succulent plants has included overseeing a three-acre production facility with two acres of greenhouses, growing over 300 varieties of succulents from seed, cuttings and division. In 2014 he sold his nursery and now works as a nursery consultant, teaching classes on succulents and writing his first book. *Succulents: The Ultimate Guide To Choosing, Designing, And Growing 200 Easy Care Plants* was just released in January by Sunset Books. Robin's extravagant vertical work with succulents is well known and has been featured in many media outlets, including *Sunset Magazine*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *San Jose Mercury News*. Robin has worked to help gardeners better understand how to grow succulents. In 2010 he launched "Succulent Extravaganza," a free two-day event devoted to better understanding succulent plants and featuring many professionals sharing their own succulent experiences. He has been a featured speaker at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show for many years, and he designed and planted an incredible giant succulent Globe in cooperation with the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. Robin's plants have been in many award-winning landscapes and he has received special recognition from the Nor Cal Nursery and Landscape Show, the San Francisco Flower and Garden show, *Sunset* magazine and more. He was president of the Monterey Bay Chapter of the California Association of Nurseryman and was on the founding committee of the Nor Cal Trade show and served as the second chairman.



Robin will be selling and signing copies of his brand-new book, *Succulents: The Ultimate Guide To Choosing, Designing, and Growing 200 Easy Care Plants* at the February meeting.



OUR NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2PM

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

CCCSS: LAST MEETING RECAP

Shortly after 2 p.m. on a stormy Sunday, January 8, 2017, President **Ken Byrne** called to order the monthly general membership meeting of the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society. After offering a succulent to the generous people who provided snacks for the meeting, Ken welcomed about six first-time visitors who introduced themselves and selected a succulent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ken mentioned that improvements to the audio system in our meeting hall are in the works.

Membership Chair **Barbara Brooks** reminded members that dues are no longer renewable in January because of a change in the club's fiscal year and are now payable in July.

Vice-President **Kathie Matsuyama** reminded members that the donation jar for Penny Pines to collect funds for reforestation of land decimated by forest fires was in the back of the room; she also said that there are still some succulent-related books for sale which will be available at the February meeting.

The first Garden Gathering will be at **Bill Findley's** garden in Arroyo Grande on Saturday, February 25. Bill can accommodate 24 visitors, and asked them to arrive between 10:30 to 10:45. Signups were taken; if more than 24 members signed up, guests will be chosen by lottery. This is NOT an open-house event where visitors can arrive at any time. The event is for MEMBERS ONLY and is designed to share members' gardens and provide a social setting where we can get to know each other in a more casual setting. Kathie is looking for other members who are interesting in hosting a Garden Gathering at their home. Each host will determine the amount of guests that can be accommodated. Light refreshments will be served.

The Show and Sale Committee will soon become active for our event over Memorial Day weekend, May 27 and 28, with setup on May 26. People who have not previously worked on the committee and who are able to attend the committee's monthly off-site meetings are encouraged to sign up with Barbara Brooks. Continuing committee members would like to mentor backups, relief and alternates for their various duties. The first committee meeting will be held in late February.

CCCSS's national parent organization, The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) holds a biennial convention which is organized and staffed by the host club. The 2017 convention is being held in Tempe, Arizona. CCCSS has been suggested as the host for the 2019 convention. If CCCSS agrees to host the convention (probably in July 2019), it will require approximately 65 to 100 volunteers to plan and staff the four-day event. It is anticipated that volunteers will work a minimum four-hour shift. (See details which were included in the club's January newsletter.) Ken asked for a show of hands from the approximately 110 people in attendance at the January meeting who were interested in working on the convention, and about 50 people indicated their interest. CCCSS would be able to generate some income from sales of t-shirts and like items. Volunteers who contribute a significant number of hours may receive a free pass to one of the convention events. Ken indicated that by hosting the convention, we would be showing our support for CSSA and it would be an enhancement to our reputation. Because preparation for the convention would span several Executive Boards, the general membership will be asked to make the final decision about hosting in 2019.

Terry Leivers reviewed the Brag Plants, Plant-of-the-Month and Raffle plants.

Following the break, **Rob Skillin** presented a photographic summary of Cacti of the Central Andean Cordillera of South America, which focused on Rob's visit to Chile, Argentina and Bolivia. Rob had photos of the many species that are native to that area and mentioned that there is some variation in the names given to these plants.

After Rob's presentation, the raffles were held, the meeting adjourned and the plant exchange took place.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

PLANT OF THE MONTH: CONOPHYTUM

by Kyle Williams

Conophytum is a fascinating genus that should be represented in everyone's succulent collection. Their reputation for being touchy and difficult to grow is undeserved. While they are usually grown in pots on benches, they can be a part of rock garden landscapes, as seen at the Sherman Library & Gardens in Corona del Mar.

Many people seeing *Conophytum* for the first time assume they must be some type of *Lithops*, so great is the similarity. Both genera do have the "living stones" look to them, belong to the same family, the *Aizoaceae* (often informally called *Mesembs*), and are native to South Africa and Namibia. However, a closer look will allow you to tell them apart quite easily. The best way to identify a *Conophytum* is to look at the leaves. In *Lithops* you have two distinct leaves, while in *Conophytum* the leaves are fused together with just a small pore or slit in the center from which the flowers emerge. *Conophytum* forms a dry papery sheath around itself when dormant while *Lithops* never does. Another clue is that *Conophytum* are winter growers while *Lithops* are most active in summer and fall. This feature is an adaptation to the areas they grow in the wild; *Lithops* in summer rainfall regions and *Conophytum* in winter rainfall zones. Additionally, *Conophytum* flowers have petals united into a tube at the base and "bracts" (small scale or leaf like growths) on the tube. *Lithops* has no tube or bracts.

Cultivation of most species of *Conophytum* is fairly straightforward. As the weather cools in the fall, start watering your plant. If it is ready to grow, it will suck up water and burst forth from the protective sheaths. Water regularly during the growing season as the plants should not dry out during this time, though keeping them too wet risks bloating, splitting and rot. A very fast-draining planting medium is recommended. Keep an eye out for signs of the leaves shrinking and collapsing when the days get warmer and longer in the spring. This is perfectly normal and you should stop watering at this time. The plants will shrink down quite a bit as the leaves turn into a dry, papery sheath that will protect the next year's leaves until fall. From this point until the fall the plants are in dormancy. Smaller species may need a bit of water; the bigger ones likely won't need any. Plants like some sun in growing season, but once the plants start entering dormancy move them to a shady location to avoid scorching. Some species can withstand light frost, but it is best to protect your plants if frost threatens. Commonly available species include *C. bilobum*, *C. obcordellum*, and *C. uviforme*.

Kyle Williams

Reprinted from the *Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus Chronicle* March 2016



Conophytum "Shokkoden"



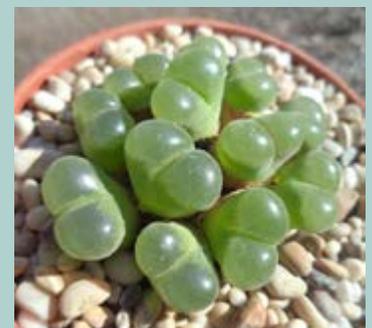
Conophytum obcordellum



Conophytum wettstenii showing papery sheaths



Conophytum loeschianum



Conophytum limpdatum



Conophytum flavum

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 11 San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society – Winter Show and Sale Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego http://sdcss.net/sdcss_004.htm

February 12: CCCSS Meeting

March TBA Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society—Spring Show and Sale, 1000 S. State College Boulevard (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim. INFO: 562-587-3357

http://occss.org/wp_occss_new/

March 12: CCCSS Meeting

April 8-9 South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society—Show and Sale South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard INFO 310-578-1953 INFO: <http://www.southcoastcss.org>

April 23 Huntington Plant Sale 10am-4:30pm 626-405-3504 Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. INFO: <http://www.huntington.org>

May 5-6 Sunset Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale INFO 310-822-1783 Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City. INFO: <http://www.sunsetsucculentsociety.org>

May 7 South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale—9am-4pm South Coast Botanical Gardens. INFO: 310 833-6823 <http://www.mattslandscape.com/sbes/>

May 12-13 Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 34th Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9-4:30 Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive Glen Avon. INFO: 951-360-8802 <http://gatescss.org>

May 20-21 Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10am-5pm Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bix by Hill Road, Long Beach. INFO: 310 922-6090 <http://www.lbcss.org>

May 20-21 Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale – Spring. INFO: <http://www.mbsucculent.org/>

May 27 & 28 Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, 10am-4pm Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo .INFO: 805-237-2054 www.centralcoastcactus.org

June 3 & 4 San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society - Summer Show & Sale Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego. INFO: http://sdcss.net/sdcss_004.htm

June TBA San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society Show & Sale – San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco. INFO: <http://sfsucculent.org/>

June 10-11 Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale, Saturday, 11th 9am-5pm, Sunday, 12th 9am-3:30pm, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard, Encino. INFO www.lacactus.com

June 30 – July 3 CSSA Annual Show & Sale - Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. Sales July 1-July 3. Show Opens on July 1st. INFO: <http://www.cssainc.org>

July 20-22 Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale, 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim. INFO 949 212-8417 http://occss.org/wp_occss_new/

Join the CSSA

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



Cactus & Succulent Society of America

UPCOMING EVENTS

CSSA Convention 2017 July 26-31 Tempe, Arizona <http://www.cssainc.org>

August 12-13 32nd Annual Intercity Show & Sale LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily, 301 No. Baldwin Ave, INFO: Tom Glavich 626 798-2430 or Artie Chavez 818-482-8795 <http://www.sgvcss.com>

September 2 Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium All Day at the Huntington. INFO: 626-405-3504 <http://www.cssainc.org>

September 3 Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12pm-5pm Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach. INFO: 310 922-6090

Sept or Oct TBA Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale – Fall VFW Hall 1960 Freedom Blvd. Freedom, CA <http://www.mbsucculent.org/>

October 7-8 Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale INFO 661-831-8488 Mall View Road, Bakersfield, Saturday 10/8 10am-5pm, Sunday 10/9 11am-4pm <http://www.bakersfieldcactus.org/>

October 28-29 Palomar Show & Sale at San Diego Botanic Gardens. INFO hciservices@gmail.com <http://www.PalomarCactus.org>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The CCCSS is an all volunteer organization and our club officers serve one year terms of office. At this time each year we announce that if you are possibly interested in one of these positions to please contact the elections committee. The various club officers and volunteer positions are listed in the club by-laws which are on our website. If you have any questions or want more information please contact Charles Varni, Past President, at 459.6698 or charles@varni.org.



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

 Cactus & Succulent Society of America

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - JANUARY 2017

On January 8, 2017, the following Executive Board members assembled: Ken Byrne, President; Kathie Matsuyama, Vice-President, Carol Moss, Secretary; Pat Gilson, Hospitality; Wayne Mills, Publicity; Charles Varni, Immediate Past-President and David Westberg, Member at Large. Appointed members present were Ann Byrne, Librarian and Barbara Brooks, Membership. CSSA Representative Rob Skillin and member Terry Leivers made a brief appearance at the beginning. Officers not present: Maggie Wagner, Treasurer; Erin Stratton, Editor; and Terry Skillin, Member at Large. Visitors present were Randy Ball, Tim Dawson, Bill Findley, and Claudette Rettig.

Rob Skillin explained that he was unable to stay for the meeting, but said he will be starting up the Show and Sale Committee and is looking for a Show Chair to replace Ken Byrne, who volunteered to continue if no one takes his place. Rob also stated he supports hosting the CSSA convention but will be unable to participate because of his involvement with the S&S.

A lengthy discussion then ensued about hosting the CSSA convention in 2019. The discussion assumed that the Executive Board would make the final decision about accepting CSSA's invitation to CCCSS to host the convention in San Luis Obispo in 2019. In the week following the Board meeting, Ken announced that the general membership would vote on the final decision.

Items of interest during the discussion involved these topics:

- the fact that a decision does not have to be made immediately, although CSSA would like a report on the status of our discussions;
- the C&S clubs in Monterey and Santa Barbara were suggested as co-hosts but have not been contacted;
- financial cost to the host;
- benefit to the host; mentioned were prestige and support of the parent club;
- Kathie agreed to speak with Peter Walkowiak, who belongs to the San Diego club that hosted a CSSA convention several years ago;
- individual Board members were asked whether they supported hosting; results were mixed, with about half the officers being in favor of hosting and half against;
- there was concern about being able to recruit enough core people to do the bulk of the planning;
- we will attempt to get feedback from clubs who previously acted as hosts.

An Election Committee was formed, with Past-President Charles Varni chairing the committee. Barbara Brooks and Pat Gilson volunteered to serve on the committee, which will actively recruit new participation in various offices.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. in pouring rain.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

CCCSS DONATES \$952 TO SUPPORT US NATIONAL FOREST REFORESTATION PROGRAM!!!

In 2016, the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society supported the US National Forest "Penny Pines Reforestation Project" with \$952 to help restore the 175,000+ acres of the Los Padres National Forest that burned last year. Since 1941, Penny Pines tree seedling plantations have been sponsored by California organizations that have contributed more than \$1,000,000. These donations have grown more than 2 million pine fir, redwood, and giant sequoia seedlings on 88,000 acres of California National Forest.

California's National Forests cover about 20 million acres, or about 1/5 of our state, from the Mexican border to Oregon. The forests' great beauty have been decimated by the increased frequency and size of tremendous wildfires that seem to start earlier and last longer each year. It takes thousands of firefighters and hundreds of pieces of specialized equipment working long, hard, hot hours in extreme terrain to control these blazing infernos. Fires leave total destruction in their wake.

Our club's Penny Pines donations support our local Los Padres National Forest where more than 175,000 acres burned in horrific fires in 2016. Our contributions in increments of \$68 (the amount requested by the National Forest) will support the cost of planting an acre of seedlings.

But we need your help!

Please donate to our Penny Pines collection jar located at the membership table every month. Your spare change, literally pennies, nickels and dimes (or a dollar or two or five!); will help us restore another fire scorched acre in the Los Padres National Forest.

Where does the \$68.00 per acre go? It goes to:

- Prepare sites for new trees or planting seedlings.
- Grow seedlings from local seeds and acorns; which are replanted near collection sites.
- Maintain existing trees, improve wildlife habitat, or replant burned forests.
- Provide watershed protection, soil stabilization and recreational area shade.

The Penny Pines Reforestation Program plays a vital role for renewing California's national forests. Trees help the ground store precious water, protect against soil erosion, and add to the national forest's scenic beauty.

Thank you for your support of the United States National Forest Penny Pines Reforestation Program. Let's make 2017 an even more generous year! Please help us reach a goal of \$1,000!



NEW CCCSS SOCIAL GATHERING OPPORTUNITY

The new CCCSS program called Garden Gatherings is underway!! The program involves club members meeting once a month in a casual, social setting in a CCCSS member's garden to get to know club members better and to gain more knowledge about cactus and succulents.

A member's garden might lend itself to a discussion about: 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.

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

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

This is a great opportunity to get more involved with the club and to have a lot of fun!!



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