



ON THE DRY SIDE

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

JULY 2017

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH: PETER BEIERSDORFER

THE ENCHANTED SUCCULENT FORESTS OF PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico is a tropical island in the Caribbean Sea nearly 1000 miles southeast from Florida. Peter spent close to half a year in Puerto Rico spread out over multiple trips. This gave him the chance to explore most of the remaining wild areas of the island. Puerto Rico hosts a number of fascinating succulent plants. In his talk, Peter will highlight plants from families such as the Euphorbiaceae, Apocynaceae, Agavaceae, Bromeliaceae, and the Cactaceae. Several species are endemic to Puerto Rico, which means they are found nowhere else. Indeed, Puerto Rico is home to the rarest American cactus species, with apparently only one plant and some rooted branches left in the wild. Most interesting are “forests” of *Melocactus intortus*, which is endemic to the Caribbean. When mature, the plant forms a large cephalium, which is the largest among the *Melocactus* genus. A forest of perhaps a few thousand *M. intortus* along the southwestern coast reveals an incredible variety of shapes and sizes of the cephalium. No succulent collection can capture this variety. In fact, most collections do not even include *M. intortus*. The settings of these forests are one of the most scenic places on earth and will delight the heart of any succulentophile.

(Continue reading on page 2)



**Our Next Meeting is Sunday July 9th at Oddfellows Hall
520 Dana St (Off Nipomo), San Luis Obispo**

See You There!

Find us online: www.centralcoastcactus.org



650 FB Members!

Get Club Updates & See Member Photos

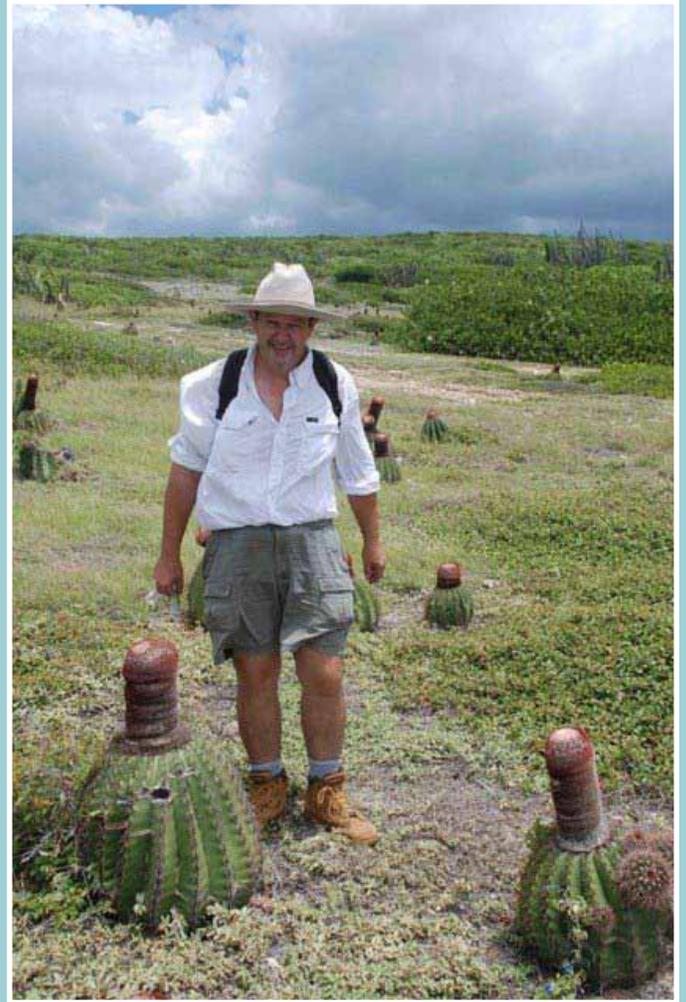
SPEAKER OF THE MONTH: PETER BEIERSDORFER (continued)

Peter Beiersdorfer has been interested in succulents since childhood, when his grandmother would grow Easter lily cacti, epiphyllums, haworthias, and sansevieras. He started to collect succulents in earnest after moving to the Bay Area 25 years ago. His collection has been expanding rapidly, and his collection at his home in Livermore now encompasses several thousand plants. He has been a regular vendor at the annual shows and sales of northern California cactus and succulent societies, and twice a year he serves as the Sales Chair of the Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose. He works as a physicist at Livermore and UC Berkeley, and travels regularly to explore succulent flora around the world. His trips to Puerto Rico were part of a work assignment at the Chemical Physics Program of the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, in San Juan.

Special Note from Speaker of the Month Editor:

I would be remiss if I did not mention that Peter's bio includes a quite amazing distinction. The Laboratory Astrophysics Division of the American Astronomical Society selected LLNL researcher, Peter, as the recipient of the 2016 Laboratory Astrophysics Prize. This honor is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to laboratory astrophysics over an extended period. Peter was cited for his numerous contributions to the study of astronomical environments at extreme-ultraviolet and X-ray wavelengths. He pioneered techniques to reproduce conditions on comets and in the Sun's atmosphere, interstellar space, and the centers of galaxies. A major focus of his research involves characterizing atomic and molecular diagnostics as revealed by their X-ray spectra. His studies of emission from the inner electron shells of iron, oxygen, neon, silicon, and sulfur are used to interpret the physical conditions in astronomical environments, both near and far. His work on X-ray emission from charge exchange revealed the importance of this process in cometary atmospheres.

Congratulations Peter!



PLANT OF THE MONTH: CEROPEGIA

**PLANTAE / ANGIOSPERMS / EUDICOTS / ATERIDS /
GENTIANALES / APOCYNACEAE /
ASCLEPIADOIDEAE (L.)**

Ceropegia: Greek 'keros', wax, wax candle; and Greek 'peg-nynai', assemble, unit; perhaps for the chandelier-like inflorescences (flowers) of some species*.

This genus was first described by the father of binomial nomenclature, the modern (somewhat) uniform system of naming organisms, in 1753 by Carl Linnaeus. The plant is endemic (native) to Africa, including Madagascar and the Canary Islands, southern Asia and Australia with around 200-plus species. They are mostly vining and, like Stapelias, are generally pollinated by flies. Some of these perennial plants have upright succulent stems with fibrous roots. Others have tubers at the soil level and relatively thin, pendulous stems along which new tubers may form at stem nodes. These 'exposed' tubers are very easy to root. Leaves are always opposite but may be vestigial (inconspicuous) in some species. The most common species in cultivation is *Ceropegia Woodii*, commonly known as String of Hearts.

Given the vast regions that this genus occupies, the general growing conditions are variable. Mostly, though, they prefer more tropical climates with water during the warm season. Somewhat regular, but less water, should be provided in the cooler months. Full sun is generally not great, with bright light being preferred. If not enough light is provided, they will not assume the darker colors that are so attractive, but rather remain bright green. As with most succulents, fertilizer should be used sparingly compared to non-succulent plants. Soils should be airy and free draining. No peculiar cultivation methods should be necessary for the readily available species. Commercial uses of the species are very minor and isolated to where they grow endemically. In North America they are grown as decorative plants only. No specific plant pest issues are noted.

—Urs Eggli, Len Newton, *Etymological Dictionary of Succulent Plant Names*.

Markus Mumper will discuss this Plant of the Month at our next meeting on Sunday, July 9th.



JUNE CCCSS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECAP

On Sunday, June 11, 2017, at 2:05pm, President Ken Byrne called to order the general membership meeting of the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society. After the members who contributed goodies for the break were given a succulent in gratitude, Ken asked the first-time visitors to introduce themselves. As is the case every June, we welcomed many folks who attended the meeting in order to learn how to care for the plants they bought at our Show and Sale! This year, more than twenty visitors introduced themselves and received a succulent in thanks.

A well-deserved, huge thank-you was extended to the S&S committee members and volunteers who worked hard to make this year's event our best ever. It would not happen without the dedicated members who vow to do a better job this time than they did the year before...and, every year, they do!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The thank-you bus trip for S&S volunteers will be on Saturday, August 12, to the Inter-City* Show and Sale at the Los Angeles Arboretum (my brain insists on calling it the Inner-City Show and Sale.).
- President-Elect Loring Manley had CCCSS window decals for S&S volunteers.
- Ken thanked the volunteers who assisted at the recent CGCI convention.
- Carol Mortensen was selling old S&S t-shirts for \$5.
- The 52nd CSSA Show & Sale is being held the end of June and beginning of July at The Huntington. Free passes were available.
- Kathie Matsuyama passed around the Penny Pines donation jar and mentioned that CCCSS has now contributed FOURTEEN \$68-per-unit donations. Good job!
- The next Garden Gathering is scheduled for Sunday, June 25, at Linda Drake's garden in San Luis Obispo. The Garden Gathering at the Harlows has been rescheduled.

Markus Mumper then discussed the Brag Table plants. He mentioned that astrophytum rot fast and need a free-draining soil. A number of dish gardens were on display. A succulent covered dress form that Barbara Brooks designed was entered in a recent event at the Jack House, and, out of 24 entries, Barbara's was voted the People's Choice Award! Her creation also won a ribbon at our Show & Sale.

Following the break, Kathie Matsuyama presented her video overview of getting acquainted with raising and collecting succulents. I jotted down the following notes:

- Adapt your potting soil to your climate.
- Do not use newspaper in the bottom of a pot.
- Pots should have feet, either built-in or added.
- Use quarter-strength fertilizer during the growing season.
- Clay pots dry out faster than plastic or hard-fired ceramic.
- Add 1 to 2 tablespoons of cider vinegar to 5 gallons of water.
- Water thoroughly until water runs out the bottom.
- Research your plants and label them. If you review the names of your plants when you water, you will learn their names.
- Books are a great reference, and CCCSS has a large library which is free to members.
- Remember Gene Schroder's famous maxim: "The number one plant pest is an uninformed plant owner."

After Kathie's presentation, a panel consisting of Kathie Matsuyama, Markus Mumper, Gene Schroeder, and Charles Varni took questions from the audience.

(Continued next page...)

JUNE CCCSS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECAP (continued)

Charles, a renowned potter, began by discussing pots:

- Pots should be elevated on feet, and need large holes covered with screen, for aeration, drainage, and to prevent insects from entering.
- Artsy plantings, such as succulents planted in tree stumps, are attractive but not practical for long-term plantings. Drainage is a problem ... plants can't sit in water.
- Plastic pots now come with feet.
- Small holes are bad. Cover large holes with ¼" hardware cloth screen (biggest mesh) or pet screen. Aluminum screen isn't recommended; shade cloth or drywall tape can be used but both come apart easily and can get entangled in the roots.
- Do not put rocks or pottery shards in the bottom of pots!
- Consider wall planters and hanging pots when space is an issue.
- Charles will be selling his pots from his studio in Oceano during Open Studios in October.

Gene Schroeder made the following points:

- Pick a pot to compliment the plant and choose the correct size.
- Getting rid of hard-water stains is more work than it is worth. (Charles suggested buying a new pot.)
- Charles also suggested cleaning a pot with LimeAway spray, a soft wire brush, and GLOVES.
- Low-fired and terra cotta pots are more pervious than high-fired pots.
- Use well-draining amendments in potting soil.
- For succulents planted in the ground, cut back on water to encourage good color from stress.
- In clay soil, with poorer drainage, add a looser medium; mound with inorganic mix.
- Fertilizing in-ground plants – use 13-13-13 once before it rains.
- In pots, use a granular, liquid soluble such as Miracle Grow at ONE-FOURTH to ONE-FIFTH strength during the growing season.
- "Hot" fertilizers such as worm castings and chicken manure cause too much lush growth.
- Best way to get insects off plants is with a garden hose.
- Repotting into a larger pot can cause a growth spurt.
- There was agreement that vinegar is a good thing to add to your water, but there was disagreement about what kind of vinegar. Some say plain white vinegar is fine, but Kathie prefers cider vinegar that Von's sells.
- **Potting mixes:** not all pre-packaged mixes are equal. Again, there were differences of opinion about commercial mixes. All agreed that Home Depot's Cactus & Palm mix is NOT good.
- *Charles prefers Black Gold Cactus and Succulent Mix (Ace Miners). He mixes it two parts soil with one part 3/8 volcanic cinders (Air Vol Block, \$3.50/bag).*
- *Kathie likes Unigrow Cactus Mix (Ace Miners, OSH). She mixes it two parts soil to one part pumice, as she finds lava too heavy.*
- *Gene grows cacti and likes to grow them tough in a very lean mix ... 80 percent pumice (Air Vol Block), 10 percent organic matter and 10 percent leaf mold, compost or perlite. He adds more organic matter for succulents.*
- *Other potting soil additives include DryStall (Farm Supply) which is prestrained and is smaller than the pumice from Air Vol Block. Perlite floats and is a pain to handle, besides being carcinogenic.*

Following the panel discussion, the raffles were held, the room was cleared, the plant exchange was held and the Executive Board met.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary

BEAUTIFUL ART FOR SALE!

Available for the first time at our July meeting, we will have two sizes of this gorgeous print for you to purchase. The art was done by Steve Thomas for the Just Looking Gallery at 746 Higuera Street in Suite 1, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805-541-6663). The amazing and wonderful folks at the Gallery have offered the art to CCCSS as a fundraiser. The profit from every piece of art sold by CCCSS goes to CCCSS!! **Thank you Ken McGavin and Ralph Gorton for your kindness and generosity!**

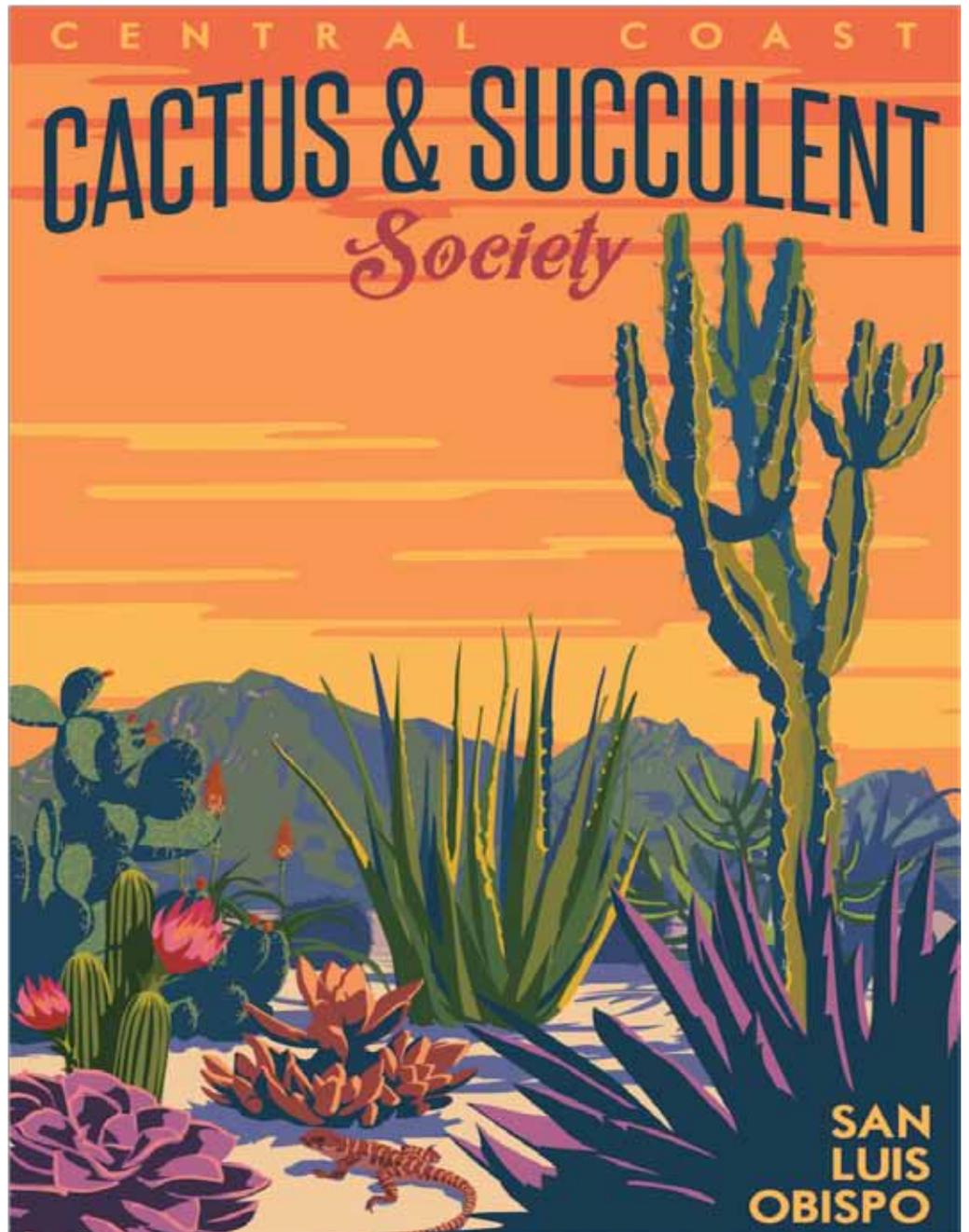
Prices including tax are:
12" x 18" framed print:
\$120

24" x 36" print on canvas:
\$420

Orders will be taken at the club meetings; cash and checks only please.

Your print will be ordered from Just Looking Gallery and delivered to you at the following club meeting.

For more information, contact Kathie Matsuyama at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net.



GARDEN GATHERINGS

What are the “Garden Gatherings” all about?

Our club (CCCSS) has grown very large and it is sometimes a challenge to connect with other cactophiles at the monthly meetings. The “Garden Gatherings” are an opportunity for members to get to know others in the club in a casual garden setting. These gatherings sometimes will have food, displays, demonstrations, and of course tours of the various member gardens. This is bi-monthly, or maybe monthly, if the demand increases and we have garden hosts to share their gardens.

All participants must be members of the club. A sign-up sheet will be available at the monthly club meetings. The host determines the appropriate number of guests and if we have too many sign-ups the participants will be chosen via lottery and notified by email. Please indicate when signing up if you are a couple who would like to attend together (we don't want to split people up).

The hosts will be guided through the process of setting up the event, and Kathie and/or Bill will be at the gathering to help with the details as well as meet prior to the event. If you are hosting, your garden does not have to be picture-perfect; it may have a few weeds (we all have them) and an area of the garden that is not cacti or succulent-related. The only thing you must have is a desire to share what you do in your garden and a willingness to host.



Contact Bill Findley at coolcactuskid805@gmail.com, or Kathie Matsuyama at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net if you have any questions or would like to open your home to an event.

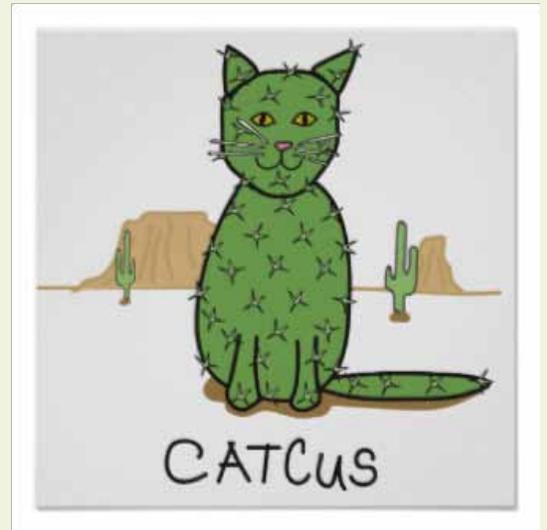
We will be taking sign-ups for several upcoming Garden Gathering events. The next event will be at Mary Peracca's home in San Luis Obispo on Saturday August 19, 2017 at 1:00 pm. Sign-up sheet will be available at the July meeting.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP WITH CCCSS

A Note from Your Membership Chairperson, Barbara Brooks:

Your continued support of the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society is highly valued and we appreciate you very much. Your membership allows our exceptional club to continue to offer you all the great benefits you currently receive—including our monthly meetings with knowledgeable and interesting speakers, presentations of beautiful and unusual cacti and succulents, field trips to remarkable gardens, our large lending library, receipt of our monthly newsletter, and so much more. Our amazing Annual Show and Sale depends on you to help make it so enormously successful, year after year. We look forward to another year filled with incredible meetings and events. Please renew your membership today! See me at the meeting or mail your dues, made payable to CCCSS, to Barbara Brooks, 441 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Dues are as follows: Individual, \$20; Family (all living under one roof), \$25; Business, \$40.

Thank you!



We love our members!!
Please renew your
membership today!

CCCSS SHOW & SALE T-SHIRTS STILL FOR SALE

All remaining 2017 Show & Sale t-shirts will be available at the July meeting for the regular price of \$15.

SUCCULENT PAINTING EXHIBIT



Mary McCrea
Succulent Paintings

Art After Dark reception:
Friday July 7, 6-9 p.m

July Artist at 2Blondes Boutique
1115 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo
(next to Big Sky)

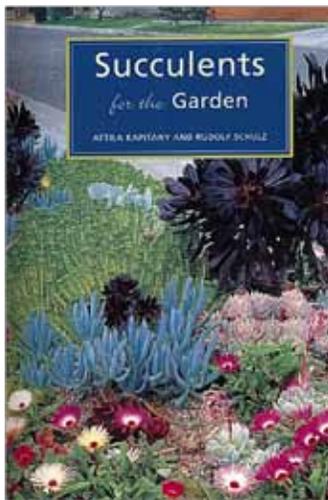
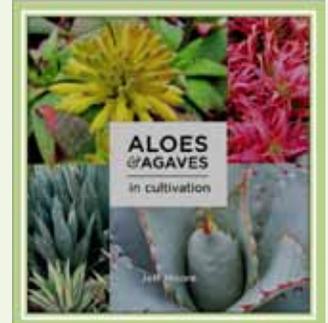
BOOKS FOR SALE

Your purchase of any of the following books supports our ability to buy other books for our CCCSS library. Thank You! The following books (some in very limited quantities) are available for purchase (Cash or Checks, no credit cards) at the June meeting. All prices include tax.

Aloes & Agaves In Cultivation By Jeff Moore

Jeff Moore's second book was released in June, 2016. Jeff takes you on a visual tour of aloes and agaves in cultivation, highlighting both the common and some of the more rare specimens, with pertinent information and growing tips gleaned from years of experience. Hundreds and hundreds of color photos (almost 1,000), with some of the best information on culture, care, history of these wonderful plants. A huge book! 335 pages, 10" x 10", softbound.

ONLY 3 COPIES LEFT!! Reasonably priced at \$40.00



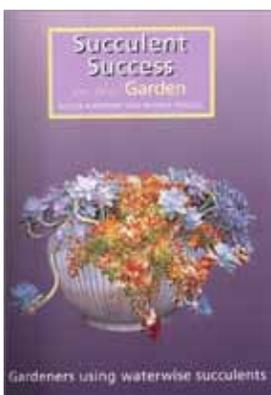
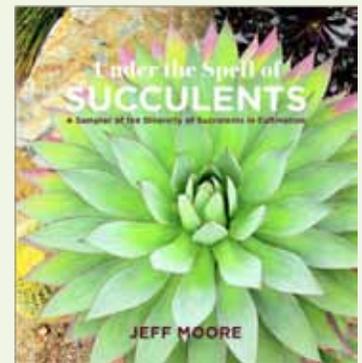
Succulents for the Garden by Attila Kapitany and Rudolf Schulz

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. ONLY 4 COPIES LEFT!! 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.

ONLY 5 COPIES LEFT!! Price is \$32.00



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

PENNY PINES REFORESTATION PROJECT

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

The Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society has donated \$952 to support the US National Forest "Penny Pines Reforestation Project". 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. We received this letter from the US Forest Service dated May 31, 2017:

Dear Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society:

Thank you for your donation. As you know, the Penny Pines/ Plant-A-Tree program supports our efforts by augmenting allocations for ecological restoration in damaged areas caused by catastrophic wildfires, which occurred over the last few years. These fires generated an unprecedented amount of reforestation, especially within the Day and Zaca fire areas. Since the spring of 2012, we have planted an estimated 800,000 trees. We plan to double this number over the next decade. These restoration efforts will provide wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and soil stabilization.



Thank you for your interest in the Los Padres National Forest.

*Peggy Hernandez
Forest Supervisor*

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.



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!

JUNE CCCSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING RECAP

The following officers assembled for the meeting of the Board of Directors: President Ken Byrne, Vice President Kathie Matsuyama, Secretary Carol Moss, Treasurer Maggie Wagner, Pat Gilson, Hospitality, David Westberg, Member at Large. Officers absent: Wayne Mills, Publicity, Terry Skillin, Member at Large, Mark Woods, Editor. Also present: Barbara Brooks, Membership; Ann Byrne, Librarian; Carol Mortensen, Vice Present Elect; Loring Manley, President Elect; Natasha Erickson, Member at Large Elect; Markus Mumper, Claudette Rettig.

- The Treasurers Report was given and Maggie reported that the club's taxes have been filed. She will forward a copy to Ken.
- Two aloe books were sold. Kathie said that Jeff Moore is working on a book on soft succulents. He will be a featured speaker in the fall.
- Ken will take notes in July for Carol Moss, who will miss the July meetings.
- The final meeting of the Show and Sale Committee for 2017 has been held.
- Ken reported that the CGCI convention was a success. Ken and several of our members volunteered at the event.
- Wayne Mills has resigned as the Publicity Chair. A replacement is needed. It was suggested that the Bylaws be amended to delete the Publicity position from being a Board position.
- Insurance was discussed, including the need for BOD insurance. The insurance questions need to be resolved by August/September.
- Kathie Matsuyama will remain as a signer on our bank account, along with Pat Gilson, Rob Skillin, Maggie Wagner and incoming President Loring Manley.
- Beginning with the July meeting, Kathie Matsuyama and Gene Schroeder will have an "Ask Me" table at meetings.
- Kathie is working on the history of CCCSS that has been requested by CSSA.
- Paul Matsuyama is picking up the artwork and a sales system will be set up.
- Ken will contact Gunnar about hosting the 2019 CSSA convention. Ken has contacted local hotels/venues and is waiting for responses.
- David Westberg volunteered to organize a clean-up committee for clearing the hall after meetings so that the Executive Board meeting can begin immediately after the general membership meeting.

Finally, the Board expressed gratitude to the officers and volunteers who are leaving the BOD: President Ken Byrne, Vice President Kathie Matsuyama, Treasurer Maggie Wagner, Publicity Chair Wayne Mills, Newsletter Editor Erin Stratton, and Member at Large David Westberg. These officers have contributed countless hours in service to CCCSS and have earned the thanks of the entire membership. Most are continuing their service to the club in other ways. This organization would not be the success it is without the dedicated volunteers who make it happen.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Harlow Moss, Secretary



 **Cactus & Succulent Society of America**

JOIN THE CSSA

CCCSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

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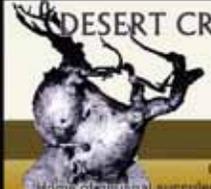
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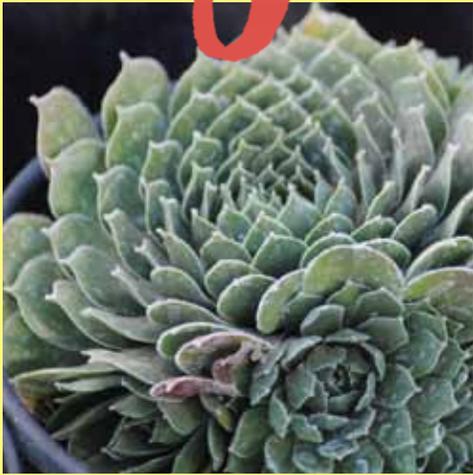
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SUMMER Succulent SALE



GROWING GROUNDS FARM

820 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria

Come to this annual celebration of all things succulent! Featuring an extensive selection of rare and exotic succulents in a variety of pot sizes to suit all your project and landscaping needs, as well as some houseplants!

8/19 SAT
8/20 SUN
10–3pm



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