

ON THE DRY SIDE

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

AUGUST 2018

AUGUST SPEAKER OF THE MONTH: STEVEN FRIEZE

Steven Frieze is a past president of the LACSS, a retired university administrator, and is currently teaching psychology courses at California State University, Dominguez Hills. He was a co-managing partner in Desert Creations, a nursery that sells unusual cacti and succulents. Steven is currently involved in another nursery venture, having started Floratopia, which specializes in Tillandsias, Bromeliads, cacti and succulents. Steven has traveled to numerous locations throughout the world that house exotic plants including Costa Rica, Chile, East Africa, South Africa, Namibia, Brazil, and Oaxaca Mexico.

The Exotic Cacti of Chile

My wife and I decided to visit Chile after we were exposed to the marvels of this country in a presentation made by Paul Klaassen. Paul had visited this country many times previously and subsequent to our trip. We had the extraordinary opportunity to spend almost a month in Chile traveling from Santiago to Taltal, a mining village in the heart of the Atacama Desert. Along the way we located and photographed many of the cacti that are endemic to Chile. We were especially gratified to explore such a large portion of the country and find such a wide variety of Copiapoas and Eriosyces. This fact made our adventure even more rewarding. A rather trying hike into the San Ramon and Botija valleys provided us with an enriching experience that we will never forget. We also took an assortment of side trips that included a visit to an island that is inhabited by penguins and sea lions. We look forward to sharing our odyssey with you that included a stay in a mansion that is owned by one of the wealthiest men in Chile.



DON'T MISS OUR NEXT MEETING! SUNDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 2PM

Oddfellows Hall, 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo
Parking is limited — please consider carpooling!

AUGUST PLANT OF THE MONTH: ALLUAUDIA

**Kingdom: Plantae / Clade: Angiosperms /
Clade: Eudicots / Order: Caryophyllales /
Family: Didiereaceae**

The Didiereaceae is a small family endemic to Madagascar, consisting of four genera, *Alluaudia*, *Alluaudiopsis*, *Decaryia*, and *Didierea*, with eleven species total. The spiny cylindrical or conical pachycaul stems of the plants give a superficial resemblance to columnar species of *Euphorbia* or cacti and the Didiereaceae are sometimes known as “the cacti of the old world”. The stems are woody, and scarcely succulent, with limited space for water storage. The plants have simple, deciduous leaves, except for *Alluaudia dumosa*, and small, unisexual flowers.

Species of the Didiereaceae are ecologically important components of the dry thorny forest in the south and southwest of Madagascar. Much of this vegetation has been cleared for agriculture and most of the remaining stands are impenetrable or nearly so. Some remnant patches of dry thorny forest occur within protected areas. The Reserve Naturelle Integrale de Tsimanampetsotsa, for example, has vegetation dominated by Didiereaceae and Euphorbiaceae and covers part of the very restricted distribution of *Alluaudia montagnacii*. The Reserve Naturelle Integrale d’Andohahela also has a good representation of *Alluaudia* and *Didierea* species.



Alluaudia montagnacii closeup



Alluaudia procera

The whole family is threatened mainly by habitat destruction and utilization of the wood for construction and charcoal production. The wood and charcoal of *Alluaudia procera*, *A. ascendens*, and *A. montagnacii* is used locally in the areas where the species grow and is sold in the cities of Madagascar. Exploitation of the wood is a threat, even, to the species and vegetation in the Reserve Naturelle Integrale d’Andohahela.



Alluaudia procera inflorescence

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PLANT OF THE MONTH: ALLUAUDIA – CONTINUED

Another threat to Didiereaceae is collection for horticulture. All species are in demand by collectors, but they rarely flower in cultivation, and seed is in short supply. Some species are cultivated in Madagascar for export, but others such as *Didierea madagascariensis* and *D. trollii* are gathered from the wild and exported as seedlings. The whole family has been included in Appendix II of CITES since the Convention came into force in 1976. This has enabled the collection of trade data for the family, which revealed the import of thousands of wild plants of *Didierea* and *Alluaudia* into Europe in the mid-1980s erroneously labelled as artificially propagated plants.

Didiereaceae need full sun or high interior lighting with a very well drained soil mix and freely circulating air—in other words, they are just like most succulents. Plants are watered and allowed to dry thoroughly before watering again. If fertilizer is used, it should be diluted to $\frac{1}{4}$ (one-quarter) the recommended rate on the label. It is a frost tender species that must be protected in the greenhouse over the winter but established plants should tolerate temperatures as low as 33°F (avoid any frost!). If grown in the home environment the ideal temperatures should run between 70° to 85°F with winter time temperatures around 50°F. During the winter months, the plant will drop all of its leaves and no water should be given during this period. Not freely branching, once this plant is established in its new pot, it should be cut back to 7-10 cm in height to encourage branching. The cuttings removed can be rooted easily and the process repeated. If pruned and kept somewhat pot bound they can be maintained at a manageable size depending on what “manageable size” means to you. If planted in the landscape, however, It will often drop all its leaves when it decides to take a rest. When this happens, cut down on the watering until the leaves start to appear again.



Alluaudia dumosa



Alluaudia montagnacii

Plant of the Month article
provided by Markus Mumper

Photos courtesy of Rob Skillin

BULLETIN BOARD

CCCSS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL UPDATE

On behalf of the CCCSS Board of Directors, a warm thank you is extended to all members who have renewed their CCCSS annual memberships. Without your support we would not be able to continue our extraordinary club benefits. To those of you who are waiting to renew or who may have forgotten, please submit your renewal dues right away. Membership is conducting an audit and a membership application is obligatory in order to process your annual renewal. Applications may be found online at centralcoastcactus.org or see Membership at the next meeting. Each club member is required to sign the Hold Harmless Clause.

You may mail your application and dues to Barbara Brooks, 441 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo, 93401.

Individual: \$20; Family: \$25; Business: \$40. Checks are payable to CCCSS.

Thank you!

CCCSS NAME BADGE BOX - CHANGES AND INFORMATION

The CCCSS Name Badge Box will no longer be available at club meetings, starting in October, 2018. Please check the Box at the regular club meetings in August and September to remove your name badge(s) from the Box. Your name badge is valuable and needs to be worn for some club events, so please keep it in a safe place. There will be a nominal replacement fee for lost badges. Please contact Barbara Brooks, Membership, if you have any questions: barbarahbrooks@sbcglobal.net.

And we love it when you wear your name badge!



ASK ME TABLE FOR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT QUESTIONS

Bring your questions about cacti and succulents to the **ASK ME TABLE** conveniently located next to the library book table at our monthly meetings. The Ask Me table will be capably staffed by our venerable expert Cactophile, Gene Schroeder. Gene has never met a cactus he didn't like! (And many succulents aswell.) Assisting Gene will be Succulentophile Kathie Matsuyama.

Please do not bring any diseased plants to the meeting! Instead, bring good photos of the plants and/or bugs.

We look forward to seeing you at the ASK ME TABLE!



BEAUTIFUL ART FOR SALE

Available at every 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** in San Luis Obispo. The wonderful folks there 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 generosity!

Prices including tax:
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, please contact: Kathie Matsuyama at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net.

GROWING GROUNDS SALE!

Growing Grounds Farm in Santa Maria (a program of Transitions Mental Health Association) will be hosting their annual **Summer Succulent Sale** on **August 18 and 19 from 10-3**. 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 a selection of houseplants!

JOIN US FOR ALL THINGS SUCCULENT!

Growing Grounds Farm
820 W Foster Road
Santa Maria CA 93454

Find us on Facebook and www.t-mha.org



SUCCULENT PINE CONE WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 10, 2018
11:00am – 1:00pm
San Luis Obispo

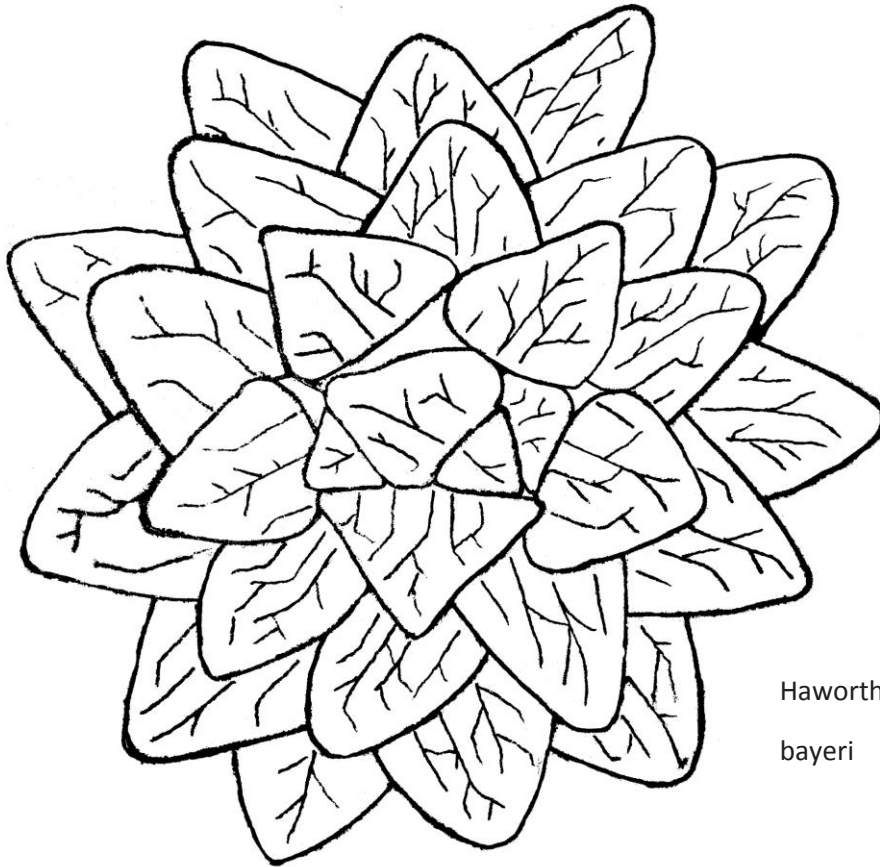
Would you like to learn how to make a succulent pinecone? Use your imagination to create a one-of-a-kind work of art! Perfect as a festive holiday decoration or to give as a unique gift, succulent pinecones are fun and easy to make.

The workshop is free and open to current members of CCCSS. Limited space is available; sign up at the August 12 meeting. A list of needed supplies and more workshop details will be emailed to those attending. If you have questions, please contact Barbara Brooks at barbarahbrooks@sbcglobal.net.

2018 REGIONAL SHOW AND SALE CALENDAR

- **AUGUST 11-12:** Annual Intercity Show & Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia
Info: Tom Glavich 626 798-2430 or Artie Chavez 818-482-8795 | www.sgvcss.com
- **SEPTEMBER 1:** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino | www.huntington.org | 626.405.3504
- **SEPTEMBER 15:** Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Rd, Long Beach | www.longbeachcactusclub.org | 310.922.6090
- **SEPTEMBER 28-29:** Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Fall Show & Sale
Location TBD | www.mbsucculent.org
- **OCTOBER 13-14:** Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
St. Paul's Church, 2216 17th St, Bakersfield | www.bakersfieldcactus.org | 661.831.8488
- **OCTOBER 27-28:** Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Rd, Encinitas | www.palomarcactus.org | 858.776.7216 | britamiller1@gmail.com
- **NOVEMBER 3-4:** San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Winter Show & Sale
LA County Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia | www.sgvcss.com

33rd Annual Inter-City
Cactus and Succulent Show
and Sale



Haworthia
bayeri

August 11 - 12 2018 9 AM to 5 PM

LA County Arboretum

301 N Baldwin Arcadia

www.intercityshow.com



Succulent & Cactus Plant Sale Saturday September 8, 2018

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Elks Lodge

158 N. Conejo School Road
Thousand Oaks, CA, 91362



**Plant & Pottery Vendors
and cactus & succulents experts will be
there to give you tips on growing and cultivation**

Please bring boxes or bags to carry home your purchases.

For more information email: Conejocss@hotmail.com

Our Sale is in conjunction with the Elks Lodge weekly BBQ.

JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Carol Mortenson, VP, called the meeting to order at 2pm on Sunday, July 8th. She requested audience conversations to stop. Announced those who brought refreshments and they selected their choice of gift plants. Asked for first-time attendees to come up and introduce themselves. There were 10 people, including one young boy visiting from Hawaii; they each selected a gift plant. Carol introduced our CCCSS helpers around the room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Carol had information that Bill Shepard was selling off his Epi's – address info was at our Greeter-table.
- Terrie Leivers announced the Committee for the 2019 CSSA Conference, being hosted by CCCSS next July in SLO, still had openings for Host Committees' chairpersons and the first full Committee meeting was being held next Saturday.
- Linda Hicks announced possible future "Buying trip" for members to visit So.Cal C&S Nurseries later in the year... possibly an over-night trip...bus or possibly car-pooling... sign-up list at back table for those possibly interested in such an outing.
- Terry Skillen told us about the prior week's CSSA C&S Show, at Huntington Botanical Gardens, and that our Club's Rob Skillen won 9 trophies, plus High Score in Show (an accounting of total points for all entries-per-person in their Show). That included many of the same plants which we see entered in our annual CCCSS Shows!

AWARDS FOR OUR 2018 CCCSS SHOW IN MAY: Ken Byrne announced the winners and Rob Skillen handed out the awards to those present – 6 perpetual-plaques for Best-In-Show Cactus and Best-In-Show Succulent for each Class (Novice, Advanced, and Open); and individual certificates for the many special categories (beautiful certificates made each year by Dale Schroeder, including the entry's photo by Loring Manley.)

BRAG PLANTS AND PLANT OF THE MONTH - COPIAPOA: David Westberg presented: Copiapoa is a genus from South America -- the Anacoma Desert on the west-coast (one of the harshest climates anywhere...some with zero recorded rainfall ever!...but almost daily fogs off the cold Humbolt current). Typical flowers throughout the genus... spines variable – even within a species...VERY SLOW growing. DO NOT water in winters...DO NOT keep outside in our Mediterranean-climate winter rains.

GOOD-BYE TO CAROL MOSS, OUR LONG-TIME CCCSS SECRETARY: Carol Mortensen announced that Carol Moss, our society Secretary for the past 6-1/2 years, is moving to New York to be near her adult children and families. There was a card for our members to sign at the rear table, and a farewell cake to be shared during break-time.

INTERCITY-C&S-SHOW & SALE (LA ARBORETUM) 8/11-8/12: Schedule & entry-forms available from Rob Skillen.

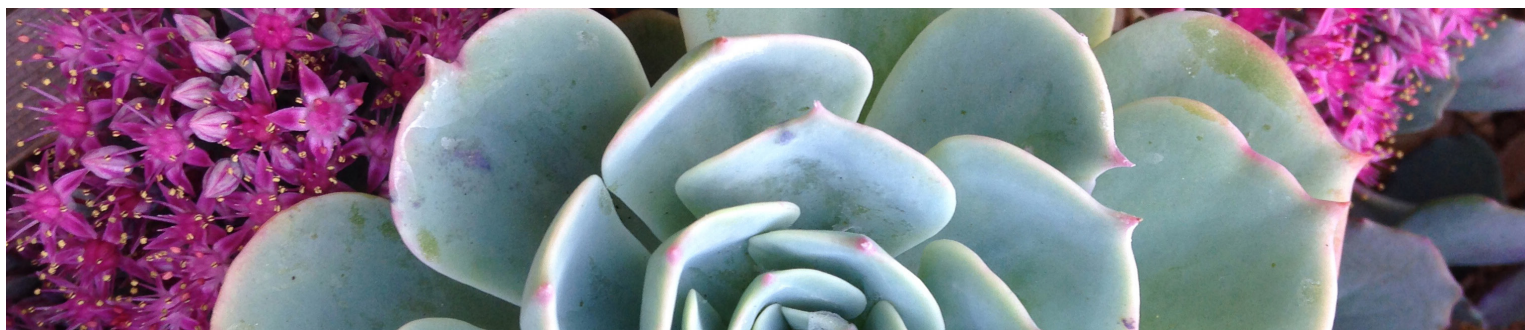
PLANT OPPORTUNITY TABLE REVIEW BY ROB: discussed the pachycaul/caudicform plants on the reserve-table.

BREAK AT 2:45: Call to reconvene at 3:04 by Carol.

YEMAN AND IT'S ISLAND OF SOCOTRA: Very interesting presentation of his trip by Rob Skillen, plus Q&A.

CLOSING: Plant Opportunity Table Drawing; Meeting ended at 4:20pm; Plant-Exchange and clean-up take place.

Submitted by Ken Byrne.



CCCSS JULY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The July Board Meeting began at 5pm on Sunday, July 8th, called to order by Carol Mortensen.

ATTENDING: **Carol Mortensen**, VP; **Kathy Goss**, Treasurer; **Terrie Leivers**, Publicity; **Natasha Erickson**, Member-at-Large; **Terry Skillin**, MAL; **Ken Byrne**, Past-President.; Rob Skillin, CSSA Rep and By-Laws/Standing-Rules Committee; Barbara Brooks, Membership Chair. (NOTE: Membership is a new Board officer position as of the May 2018 membership vote, but is not yet filled until we have a Board quorum to formally vote).

There was not a quorum, with only 6 of 11 Board members (high-lighted above) present. Since 7 Board members are needed, no binding Board votes could be held.

Kathy Goss, Treasurer: Treasurer Report and D&O Insurance due end-of-August. Move to August.

Rob Skillin: Discussed yearly update to Standing-Rules and list for CCCSS standing committees...for August.

Terrie Leivers: Discussed the 2019 CSSA Convention status and our CCCSS Host Committee status. Host Committee meeting is scheduled for next weekend, with Gunnar Eisel, CSSA.

Terry Skillin: Discussed the possible "Buying Trip" to SoCal nurseries. Several members signed-up as interested (at the membership meeting today), but not enough for a bus(?)— Options being investigated.

Terry Skillin: discussed "Boutique Art Workshop" being finalized for October, more info next membership meeting.

Barbara Brooks discussed doing future workshop(s) for "Succulent Pine Cones" and "Succulent Pumpkins" – separately or probably together...more later.

Meeting adjourned by Carol at 6:15pm.

Submitted by Ken Byrne

CCCSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

President: **Loring Manley** loring.manley@icloud.com

Vice President: **Carol Mortensen** carolmortensen0@gmail.com

Secretary: **Ann Byrne** annierose1206@msn.com

Treasurer: **Kathy Goss**

Membership: **Barbara Brooks** barbarahbrooks@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality: **Pat Gilson** hupt74@yahoo.com

Librarian: **Ken Byrne** agaveken@msn.com

Publicity: **Terrie Leivers** terrieleivers@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: **Mark Woods** marknslo@gmail.com

Past President:

Ken Byrne agaveken@msn.com

CSSA Affiliate:

Rob Skillin rskillin@gmail.com

Members At Large:

Terry Skillin

tjskillin@gmail.com

Natasha Erickson

ayin1331@gmail.com

Bill Findley

coolcactuskid805@gmail.com

General Club Email Address: cencalcactus@gmail.com



779 Facebook members! View club updates & member photos.
Also find us online at www.centralcoastcactus.org.

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA – “CSSA”

CSSA JOURNAL, NO. 1, 2018 Synopsis of Selected Articles by Nels Christianson

Cacti of northwestern Peru: the CSSA field trip of August 2016

James Mauseth's first article on the field trip to Peru documents the wide variety of succulent species found just in the northwestern region of the country. With a botanist's eye and an author's appreciation for detail Professor Mauseth educates and delights the reader at the same time with interesting information about local ecology, geography and the cacti seen. The sixteen-page article is accompanied by vivid illustrations of *Haageocereus*, *Browningia*, *Armatocereus*, *Rauhocereus*, *Matucana*, *Melocactus* and other genera.

Agaves of Arizona part II

In a second lengthy and well-illustrated article, Ron Parker discusses natural hybrids and domesticated *Agave* species in Arizona. There are three named hybrids in Arizona: *A. xarizonica*, discovered in the 1960s, *A. schottii* var. *treleasii* from the Santa Catalina Mountains and *A. xajoensis* found in only one location in Organ Pipe National Monument. There are five named *Agave* taxa considered to be hybridized, selected and farmed by pre-Columbian Native Americans and are always found at archaeological sites. These are *A. murpheyi*, *A. delamateri*, *A. phillipsiana*, *A. verdensis* and *A. yavapaiensis*, the last two not described until recently. In addition, the author notes that *A. parryi* which is naturally occurring (not a pre-Columbian cultivar) was also domesticated. Maps accompany the article.

Texas Peyote Culture

Journal editor Tim Harvey's introduction of the author: "Kevin Feeney is a cultural anthropologist who conducted his doctoral research among the peyoteros of South Texas. His research focused on the relationships between peyote distributors and their Native American customers..." In the introduction to his article Dr. Feeney writes "It is believed that the peyote rituals of the Huichol, Nahua, Tarahumara, Cora, Tepehuan, and more recently the Native American Church, all trace their origins to the peyote gardens of Texas." He presents archaeological findings and introduces the original peoples of northeastern Mexico and the peyote trade. Best practices, harvest, preparation, folk uses and the future of peyote in Texas are presented along with pictures of ancient sites, plants and peyote product.

Agave cremnophila, a new species from southeastern Oaxaca, Mexico

Authors Greg Starr, Julia Etter and Martin Kristen describe this species from Cerro las Flores, north of the town of Santiago Lachiguiri in the state of Oaxaca. It is a small-sized species in the group *Striatae*, vegetatively most similar to *A. dasylirioides*, and is endemic to Oaxaca. This brings to 10 the total number of species in the *Striatae* found in Mexico. With the description of *Agave cremnophila*, there are 35 described *Agave* taxa within the state of Oaxaca, a region of diverse and varied habitats.

Additionally, Fred Katterman offers 13 pages of "Molecular analysis of the genus *Eriosyce* part III," Leo Chance continues his series "Pushing the Limits: landscaping with cacti and succulents" with his article #28, Scott Zona presents "The repeat-flowering *Agave* is a botanical Bigfoot" in which he discusses *A. bracteosa*'s flowering habit and Miguel Chazaro-Basáñez and Jaime Rivera Hernández review of a *Sedum* species described by Robert Clausen in 1951: "*Sedum lucidum*, an endemic stonecrop of Veracruz, Mexico." The CSSA Seed Depot list of available seeds, managed by Sue Haffner, follows the above-mentioned articles with 3½ pages of enticing offerings.



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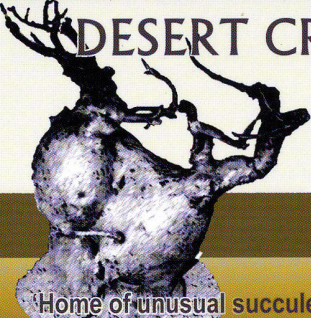
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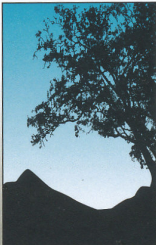
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