



ON THE DRY SIDE

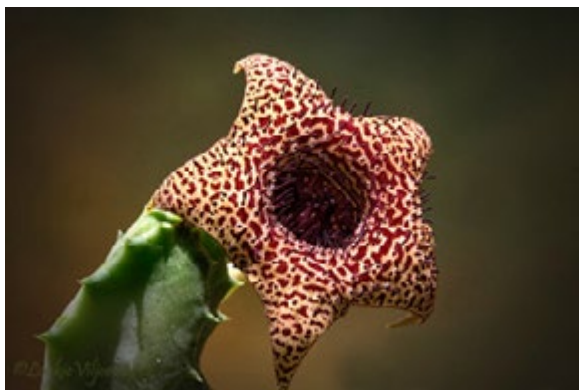
CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

AUGUST 2019

OUR AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER: J.D. WIKERT

Our speaker this month is J.D. Wikert. He will present the topic "All About Stapeliads." He grew up in Santa Maria and did his undergraduate degree at UCSB so the Central Coast is a familiar area to him.

J.D. is a fisheries biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, working on restoration of habitat for salmon in California's Central Valley and lives in Lodi, California. Previously, he worked in Florida sampling fish and doing lake restoration. He is a self-trained succulent hobbyist and usually has more than 100 flats of plants in his back (and side) yards. J.D. has been actively propagating succulent plants for around 15 years and has figured out how to kill most succulent species over that time. He is a member of both the Sacramento and Stockton Cactus and Succulent Societies, and served a two-year term as president of the Stockton Club. This year he sold plants at both the Sacramento and San Francisco succulent show/sales.



J.D. will provide a broad overview of the Family Stapelidae. The presentation will include information regarding taxonomy, distribution, cultivation, and propagation as well as providing pictures of many of the more readily available species. Feel free to bring some of your own Stapeliad specimens for the club to view.

J.D. has a number of presentations that he has given in the past and has developed these talks to teach himself more about these cool groups of plants, but by no means considers himself an expert. J.D. also spends way too much time on Facebook in various succulent plant groups.

He will bring plants for sale!

Stapeliad photos are by Loukie Viljoen.

Pictured top left: *Huernia piercii*

Bottom left: *Orbea melanatha*

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH, 2 PM

Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo • Parking is limited – please consider carpooling!

PLANT OF THE MONTH: COMPACT SOUTH AFRICAN MINIATURE CRASSULAS: CUSHIONS AND STACKS

The genus *Crassula* contains about 200 species of world wide distribution, ranging from minute annuals to large trees; from marsh and aquatic plants to warm desert survivors. Nearly all of the more than 80 compact species occur in the warm dry areas of South Africa, mostly in the winter rainfall areas. They are generally treated as winter growers, easy to grow, given ample sun and air, but need frost protection in cold winter areas. An extensive coverage of the genus can be found in *Crassula, a Growers Guide*, by Gordon Rowley, from which this commentary was adapted.

This note considers only a few of the more desirable and readily obtainable miniature compact species from South Africa. In my personal organization, a compact species is one in which stems are absent or inconspicuous and completely hidden by the fleshy leaves. They may have the form of a compact cluster in which the stems are not apparent at all and which appear as a cluster of closely packed globular or succulent leaves, or a form in which the stems may be quite elongated and branched, but are covered by fleshy leaves which completely hide the stem itself. I have used the term 'cushion' to describe the first form, and 'stacked' to describe the latter (stacked forms – a term adopted from Dave's Garden).

The placement of a species into one of these groups is my own arbitrary decision, and there are many species which are intermediate and whose placement is arbitrary. All of the forms described here are amenable to porch culture in pots or sometimes in hanging pots. The cushion forms often seem to have no stems at all and appear to be just clusters of highly fleshy leaves, or of rosettes arising directly from the substrate, or sometimes of very short highly branched stems covered with fleshy leaves. A few of my own favorite species include *alstonii*, *ausensis*, *barbata*, *elegans*, *hemispherica*, *hirtipes*, *mesembryanthemopsis*, *socialis*, *susannae*, *tecta*, *tomentosa*, and the various cultivars of *susannae*. Several forms appear as intermediates between highly compact and stacked in that they have more or less spherical or oval fleshy leaves which are closely clustered on elongated stems. These include *Crassula barklyi* (*teres*), *columella*, *columnaris*, *corallina*, *deceptor*, *exilis* (*picturatis*), *marchandii*, and *plegmatoides*.

(continued next page)

Pictured at top: *Crassula barklyi*
Center: *C. deceptor*
Bottom: *C. tomentosa*

Plant of The Month Article by Markus Mumper
Photos courtesy of Rob Skillin



COMPACT CRASSULAS – CONTINUED



In some sense, all Crassulas are stacked with leaves surrounding a central stem. But the plants I have grouped as stacked forms are the ones that grow straight up and not the mounding or rosette varieties. Most of the stacked forms are patterned after *Crassula perforata*, *perfoliata* (*falcata*), *rupestris*, *pyramidalis*, and their hybrids (Ivory Pagoda, Jade Necklace, Morgans Beauty, Buddha's Temple, Moonglow) And there are the short, clumping stacked ones (*Crassula marchandii* and *columella*), and the dinky ones, *muscosa* (*lycopodioides*). And then there are the *Crassula capitella* (*thysiflora*) varieties which qualify as stacked plants but which often appear as cushions. There are probably dozens more, but these are some of the most common ones found in cultivation.



Crassulas root and grow readily from stem cuttings. A few species are monocarpic (die after blooming) but they can be propagated by beheading the plant before it flowers. Most of the species reach maturity in a few years, then decline, so it is best to rejuvenate the collection by starting new plants from cuttings before the originals have reached the end of their life span. They can be grown in ordinary cactus culture mixture and fertilized during watering in the growing season (late fall, early spring) with dilute balanced soluble fertilizer. Rowley suggests some light watering during the dormant period (no fertilizer) to keep the roots from becoming totally desiccated. It is better to grow the plants in a deeper pot rather than a shallow bowl, according to Rowley. The *Crassula* inflorescence is a cyme, a single stalk (peduncle) terminating in a highly branched umbrella or dome, or ball, bearing a large number of single flowers. The flowers themselves are very small, simple starlike flowers, but the cyme presents a major attractive display to pollinators. The flowers may be white, pink, red, and occasionally yellow. Crassulas are subject to attack by mealy bugs and aphids. The bugs retreat into the crevices and spaces between the leaves and inflorescences of the compact species so it is best to inspect the plants often and remove any dead flower remains and leaves frequently. Rowley treats his plants with an annual soaking of systemic pesticide/insecticide in the spring when growth is beginning and reports no unfavorable side effects. I have found it effective to treat infestations with 70% isopropanol if done early in the infestation. ~Charles Spotts

Pictured top left: *Crassula alstonii*
Center left: *C. columnaris*
Bottom left: *C. cotyledonis*
Bottom right: *C. deltoidea*



2019 CSSA CONVENTION – IN APPRECIATION

The 2019 CSSA Convention at our SLO Vets Hall is over... and it was a REAL SUCCESS!

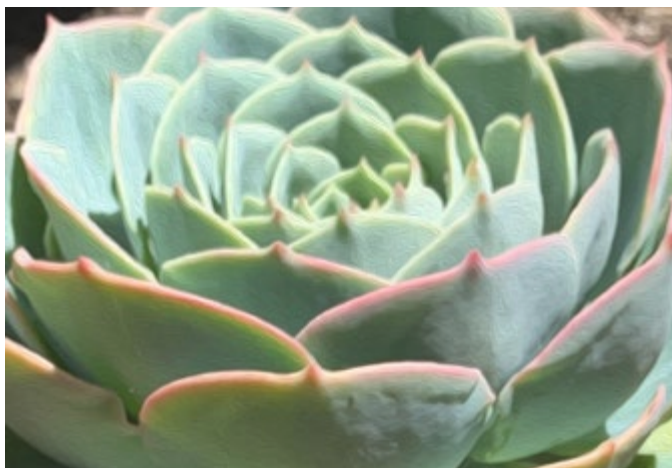
All thanks to our CCCSS Members, and others who participated in the planning, the oversight, and the actual on-site work to make it so successful!

The CCCSS Host Committee met for over a year to plan and coordinate Convention activities with the CSSA Convention Chairman, Gunnar Eisel. The Host Committee was staffed by our CCCSS members Ann Byrne, Carol Preston, Karen Kolba, Ken Byrne, Loring Manley, Margaret Wagner, Markus Mumper, Rob Skillin, Terrie Leivers, and Terry Skillin. They ALSO provided coordination/oversight and many hours of actual on-site work during the Convention.

Volunteers were the backbone of the Convention, providing everything that needed doing for the multi-day event. The majority of pre-planned volunteers were from our CCCSS, with others from SBCSS and MBACSS; and then there were also people who were paid attendees, who asked and then helped out from all over the country. Basically, we had over 80 volunteers who staffed over 180 “spots” (shifts) needed to make the event such a success! That does not even include our members who helped ahead of time, making the **super special** Commemorative Pottery (*never before* given at any Convention), and planting them up with the more standard convention gift-succulents — a real smash hit with all the Conventioneers!

Again, **THANK YOU** to all who helped!

Terrie Leivers and Ken Byrne,
Host-Committee Co-Chairs




From Terry Skillin:

Again, to all the friends, volunteers, and members who just came out to help me in the kitchen, to make the Wednesday night CSSA Convention-Welcome a success, I say again: Gracious, Merci, Mahalo, Grazie and all that.

“I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks; and ever thanks...”

Terry Skillin



 Cactus & Succulent Society of America

[JOIN THE CSSA](#)

CLUB BULLETIN BOARD

IMPORTANT! LAST NOTICE FOR YOUR CCCSS 2019/2020 MEMBERSHIP

Please take just a moment to think about why you personally value being a member of CCCSS. There's a lot to consider — monthly meetings with fellow succulent lovers, comprehensive educational lectures with renowned speakers, the fabulous newsletter, fun garden gatherings, the amazing plant raffle, plant exchange, and so much more. Please note your membership becomes delinquent in September, so **please renew your membership today.**

Individual: \$20

Family, all under same roof: \$25

Business: \$40

You may mail your dues to **CCCSS, c/o Barbara Brooks, 441 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo, 93401**. Please **pay by check made payable to CCCSS**. Or, please see Barbara Brooks at the Membership Table at the next meeting on August 11. Thank you to those of you who already submitted your membership dues. On behalf of the CCCSS Board of Directors, we appreciate our members very much. Your support is essential and helps our club to continue to serve the community. Thank you!



CCCSS MEMBERS' PLANT WISH LIST

The following members either have plants available or they are looking for some. Note: use of this feature authorizes CCCSS to publish your contact info in the newsletter. If you have plants to share, or are looking for something yourself, you can sign up at the next meeting. The Wish List is at the back table.

- **Loring Manley** has **8 Aloe krapohlianas** (pictured right) in 4" pots, \$10 each. Contact him at **805-598-3710**.
- **Loring Manley** wants an **Operculicarya hyphaenoides** (pref female), any size. Will consider price appropriate to specimen size.
- **Tim Dawson** is looking for an **Aloe castanea** (plant or seed). Tim can be reached at **805-610-9533**.
- **Margaret Moreno** would like a **Tephrocactus geometricus** (plant). She can be reached at **805-710-0213**.



With grateful thanks
to our
Garden Gathering Goddesses
(Kathie Matsuyama and Susan Ross)
for gleaning great gardens
for our group
to gaze at.

From a Gushing Guest!

GARDEN GATHERING NEWS

There are two Garden Gatherings coming up!
Please sign up to attend at the August meeting.

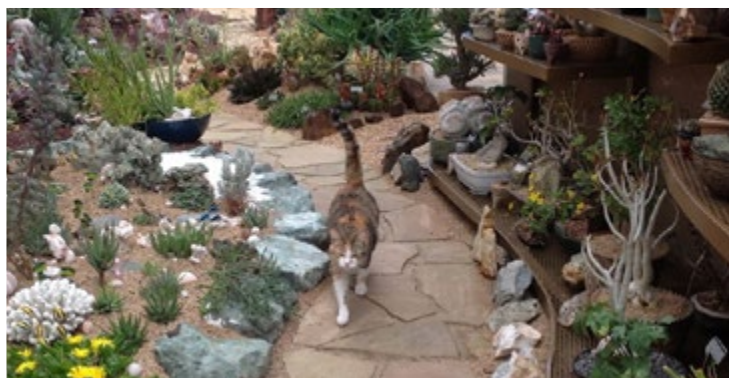
September 22: Linda Drake's in San Luis Obispo
October 5: Mary & Harry Harlow's in Santa Margarita

Interested in *hosting* a Garden Gathering? Let us know!

Susan Ross: susanrosscra@yahoo.com

Kathie Matsuyama: luvbigdogs@earthlink.net

3 Uppermost photos: Linda Drake's gardens (and cat).



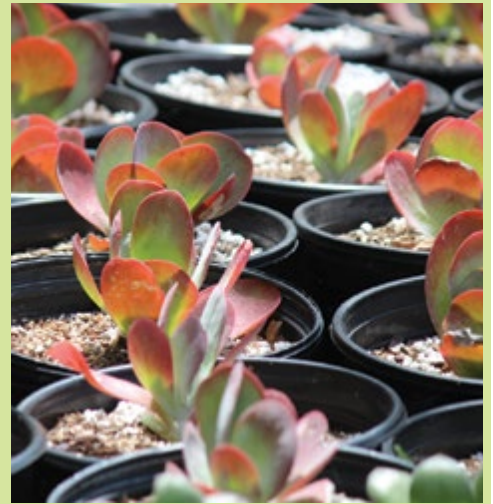
New to CCCSS? Here are the FAQs about Garden Gatherings:

- **What:** "Garden Gatherings" are a chance to meet club members in a fun, casual garden setting. Conversation, food, and a tour of the member's garden are the focus of the events.
- **Why:** CCCSS club is large and growing; it's hard to connect with other cactophiles at our huge meetings!
- **Where:** Gatherings are held in a CCCSS member's garden.
- **Who:** Participants must be CCCSS members. The host decides the number of guests.
- **When:** Hosts pick the date and time for the event, which generally lasts 1 to 1½ hours.
- **Help:** Event planning, organization, sign-up, and email coordination with your guests is capably managed by Susan and Kathie!

Harry Harlow (left), and the Harlows' landscape and greenhouse.



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!

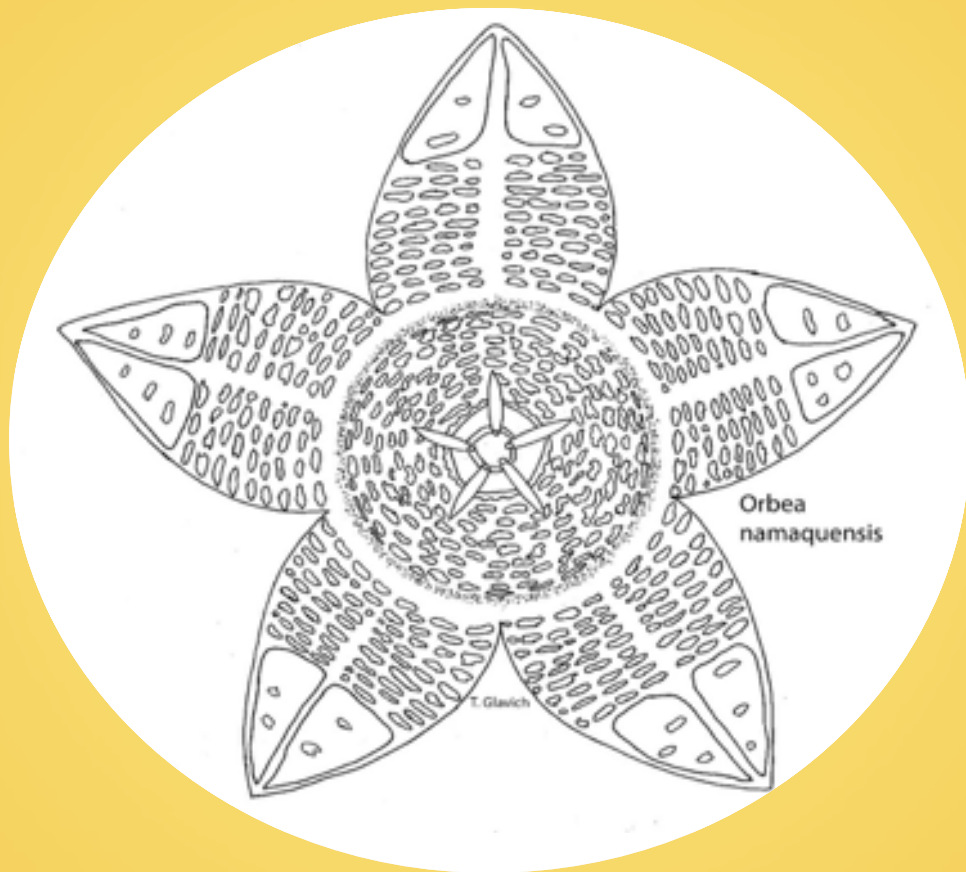
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8/11 SUN
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11am - 5pm

Free Admission!

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UPCOMING STUDIO SHOW

ROWE CLAYWORKS, MORRO BAY
FEATURING STEVE SUPER PLANTS
& RICHARD ROWE POTTERY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019
HOURS: 10-4
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

ROWE CLAYWORKS IS LOCATED AT:
387 B QUINTANA ROAD,
MORRO BAY

CONTACT RICHARD ROWE
FOR MORE INFO:
805 235-9721 OR
ROWECLAYWORKS@GMAIL.COM

A 'SUPER' DYCKIA IN A 'ROWE' POT



JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

President Loring Manley called the meeting to order at 2 pm on July 14, 2019 and welcomed approximately 114 members and guests to the meeting.

Loring thanked the members who brought refreshments to the July meeting and those who cleaned up after the June meeting. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the room and remember, those volunteers get a free plant for helping out with these specific tasks. Loring also thanked all the other club members who volunteer at each meeting and he reminded everyone to check out the different tables around the room (Membership, Raffle Plants, Brag Plants, Plant of the month, Library, Art/Book Sales, etc). One first-time visitor was invited to come up, introduce themselves, and select a free plant.

Announcements:

- Barbara Brooks reminded everyone that membership fees for 2019/2020 are now due and name tags for new members are at the back table.
- Ken Byrne and Terrie Leivers reviewed CSSA Convention volunteer schedules and other related matters for the upcoming event.
- Kathie Matsuyama and Susan Ross thanked Susan Fishburn for hosting the largest Garden Gathering we have ever had. They also mentioned that Linda Drake will be hosting the next Garden Gathering in September.
- Loring Manley reminded everyone of the plant Wish List sign-up sheet on the back table.

Rob Skillin discussed the Plant of the Month (Melocactus), and then invited several members to come forward and share the 'brag' plants they had brought in. After that, Rob described some of the extra special plants on the raffle table.

Loring Manley handed out our Show Winner Certificates from the May Show & Sale.

After a short break, Woody Minnich, our guest speaker, presented a very informative program called "20 Years in the Atacama, Land of the Copiapos." The Plant Raffle and Plant Exchange followed, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

Submitted by: Ann L. Byrne, CCCSS Secretary

JULY BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Loring Manley at 4:50pm, with the following Board members and guests present: Barbara Brooks, Ken Byrne, Ann Byrne, Natasha Erickson, Bill Findley, Pat Gilson, Kathy Goss, Terrie Leivers, Carol Mortensen, Rob Skillin and Terry Skillin. (Quorum present)

Old Business:

- Approval of previous meeting minutes (Ann Byrne)
- Treasurer's report (Kathy Goss)
- CSSA Convention update (Ken Byrne/Terrie Leivers)
- Shared data repository discussion (All)

New/Other Business:

- Email phishing activity reported

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Ann L. Byrne, CCCSS Secretary

ART FOR SALE

We still have gorgeous cactus and succulent artwork available for sale at our meetings! This art was commissioned by **Just Looking Gallery in San Luis Obispo**. The artist of this wonderful work, **Steve Thomas**, was born in Canada and is based in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. Thomas has a long history as a commercial artist, working with organizations such as America's National Park Service, Clif Bar and Disney. Currently he focuses on creating fine art paintings heavily influenced by the 1930s Art Deco movement. Over the past five years, working with Just Looking Gallery in San Luis Obispo, he has developed an extraordinary series of vintage style travel posters capturing the beauty and unique nature of California's Central Coast. We certainly LOVE the art he created especially for the CCCSS!

The profit from every piece of this beautiful cactus and succulent art sold by CCCSS goes to CCCSS! Thank you, **Ken McGavin** and **Ralph Gorton** of Just Looking Gallery, for your kindness and generosity! Just Looking Gallery is located at 746 Higuera Street in Suite 1, San Luis Obispo.

Price including tax:
12"x18" framed print: \$120
24"x36" print on canvas: \$420

Orders for art pieces 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, see **Kathie Matsuyama** at the meeting, or contact her at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net.



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Vice President: **Carol Mortensen**

Secretary: **Ann Byrne**

Treasurer: **Kathy Goss**

Membership: **Barbara Brooks**

Hospitality: **Pat Gilson**

Librarian: **Ken Byrne**

Publicity: **Terrie Leivers**

Newsletter Editor: **Mark Woods**

Past President: **Ken Byrne**

CSSA Affiliate: **Rob Skillin**

Member At Large: **Terry Skillin**

Member At Large: **Natasha Erickson**

Member At Large: **Bill Findley**

General Club Email Address: info@centralcoastcactus.org



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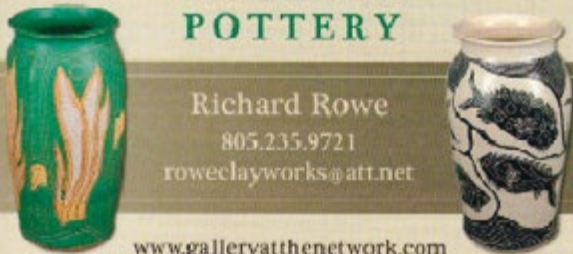


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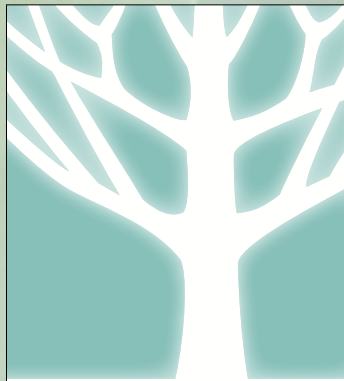
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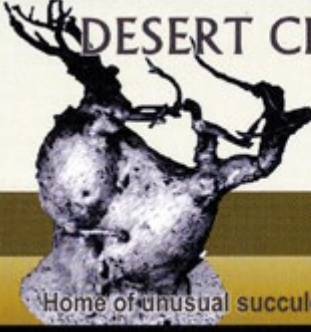
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