OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER: MICHELLE CLOUD-HUGHES

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: A NEW CACTUS SPECIES FROM THE CALIFORNIA DESERT

Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis (the chucky cholla) is a newlydescribed cactus found in San Bernardino, Riverside, and northern Imperial Counties, California. Michelle's presentation will describe how this historically-misidentified cholla was determined to be a distinct new species and the characteristics that distinguish it from similar cholla species. This presentation will provide detailed information on where to see the chucky cholla as well as other cacti and succulents found in the same areas.





ABOUT MICHELLE:

Michelle Cloud-Hughes is a botanist and restoration ecologist specializing in desert flora and ecosystems. She worked for the Soil Ecology and Restoration Group at San Diego State University from 1997 to 2013 and spent most of those years doing restoration work in the central Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin National Training Center. In 2010 she started her company, Desert Solitaire Botany and Ecological Restoration, and since then has been involved in many rare plant surveys and other botanical and restoration projects throughout the southwestern U.S. Her main love is Cylindropuntia, but she is also fascinated by other cactus, particularly Echinocereus, Grusonia, Pediocactus, and occasionally even Opuntia.

Please Note: Our October guest speaker, Michelle Cloud-Hughes, will not be selling plants at our next meeting. Therefore, a change in our agenda will be to accommodate the fine potters in our membership to sell pottery at the October meeting. If you are a member of our club in good standing and possess a resale license, please e-mail Carol Mortensen at <u>carolmortensen0@gmail.com</u> (that is my name followed by a zero) that you will be selling pottery as well as a photo of your re-sale license. The seller is responsible to collect taxes on items sold. These opportunities don't come along very often and this is a great occasion for our members to see samples of your work for the upcoming OPEN STUDIOS.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: SANSEVIERIA

The houseplant hobby is experiencing something of a renaissance as of late. With their popularity on various social media platforms, easy-to-grow plant species and their cultivars are experiencing a level of popularity they haven't seen in decades. One genus of particular interest to houseplant hobbyists is Sansevieria.

Despite their popularity, the few Sansevieria species regularly found in cultivation come attached with less than appealing common names: Mother-in-law's tongue, Devil's tongue and snake plant all carry with them an air of negativity for what are essentially some of the most forgiving houseplants on the market. What few houseplant growers realize is that those dense clumps of upright striped leaves tucked into a dark corner of their home belong to a fascinating genus worthy of our admiration.

The Sansevieria we encounter in most nurseries are just the tip of the iceberg. Sansevieria is a genus comprising about 70 different species. I say 'about' because this group is a taxonomic mess. There are a couple reasons for this. For starters, the vast majority of Sansevieria species are painfully slow growers. It can take decades for an individual to

reach maturity. As such, they have never really presented nursery owners with much in the way of economic gain and thus only a few have received any commercial attention.





Another reason has to do with the fiber market during and after World War II. In hopes of discovering new plant-based fibers for rope and netting, the USDA collected many Sansevieria but never formally described most of them. Instead, plants were assigned numbers in hopes that future botanists would take the time needed to parse them out properly.

A third reason has to do with the variety of forms and colors these plants can take. Horticulturists have been fond of giving plants their own special cultivar names. This complicates matters as it is hard to say which names apply to which species. Often the same species can have different names depending on who popularized it and when.

Regardless of what we call them, all Sansevieria hail from arid regions of Africa, Madagascar and southern Asia. In the wild, many species resemble agave or yucca and, indeed, they occupy similar niches to these New World groups. Like so many other plants of arid regions, Sansevieria evolved CAM photosynthesis as a means of coping with heat and drought. Instead of opening up their stomata during the day when high

temperatures would cause them to lose precious water, they open them at night and store CO2 in the form of an organic acid. When the sun rises the next day the plants close up their stomata and utilize the acid-stored carbon for their photosynthetic needs.

Top right: Sansevieria penguicula

Above left: Sansevieria sp.

Immediate right: S. sp, Gof Choba, Kenya

Far right: S. sp, Al-Qaidah, Yemen



(Continued next page)

SANSEVIERIA – CONTINUED

The various Sansevieria appear to sort themselves out along a handful of different growth forms. The most familiar to your average houseplant enthusiast is the form typified by Sansevieria trifasciata. These plants produce long, narrow, sword shaped leaves that point directly towards the sky. Many other Sansevieria species, such as S. subspicata and S. ballyi take on a more rosetted form with leaves that span the gamut from thin to extremely succulent. Still others, like S. grandis and S. forskaalii produce much larger, flattened leaves that grow in a form reminiscent of a leaky vase.

Regardless of their growth form, a majority of Sansevieria species undergo radical transformations as they age. Because of this, adults and juveniles can look markedly differ-

ent from one another, a fact that I suspect lends to some of the taxonomic confusion mentioned earlier. A species that illustrates this nicely is S. fischeri. When young, S. fischeri consists of tight rosettes of thick, mottled leaves. For years these plants continue to grow like this reaching surprisingly large sizes. Then the plants hit maturity. At that point the

plant switches from its rosette form to producing single leaves that protrude straight out of the ground and can reach heights of several feet! Because the rosettes eventually rot away, there is often no sign of the plant's previous form.

Though there is variation among the various species, Sansevieria all form flowers on either a simple or branched raceme. Flowers range in color from greenish white to nearly brown and all produce a copious amount of nectar. I have even noticed sickeningly sweet odors emanating from the flowers of some captive specimens. After pollination flowers give way to brightly colored berries hinting at their place in the family Asparagaceae.

As a whole, Sansevieria can be seen as exceptional tolerators, eking out an existence wherever the right microclimate presents itself in an otherwise harsh landscape. Their extreme water efficiency, tolerance of shade, and long lived habit has lent to the global popularity of only a few species. For the majority of the 70 or so species in this genus, their painfully slow growth rates means that they have never made quite a splash in the horticulture trade.





Top right: Sansevieria deserti, Namibia

Center right: S. deserti flower, Namibia

Lower right: Sansevieria sp, Jozini, South Africa

Left: Sansevieria sp, Maktau, Kenya

Plant of the Month by Markus Mumper Habitat photos courtesy of Rob Skillin



CLUB BULLETIN BOARD

THE HOLIDAY POTLUCK IS COMING UP!

I know thinking about the Holidays is the last thing you want to do right now but we only have the October & November meetings before our **December 8th potluck**. As you know we have limited seating. I have to follow a first come, first served basis, but I try to accommodate all who wish to attend. Please complete and return the potluck sign up sheet (below) to me as soon as possible. This event is open to *current CCCSS members and their guests*.

We have a lot of fun every year—the potluck gives us an opportunity to socialize with each other that we don't aways have time to do the rest of the year. If you are unable to attend the October and November meetings but wish to attend the potluck, please email me at hupt74@yahoo.com or call me at 805-710-4957.

Thank you,

Pat Gilson, Hospitality Chairperson

HOLIDAY POTLUCK SIGNUP ~	DECEMBER 8, 2019	
Required personal info:	The Club will supply ham & turkey ~ What will you bring?	
Member Name:	Appetizer	Main Dish
Phone Number:	Salad Bread/Butter	Side Dish
Number of People Attending:	Beverage	
Would you like to volunteer for set-up and/or cleanup?		

CCCSS MEMBERS' PLANT WISH LIST

The following members either have pants available or they are looking for something. 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 at monthly meetings.

- Mark Woods has an Agave -- free to anyone who wants to dig it up. Located in SLO. Pictured at right, measures 24" tall and 40" across at its widest point. Beautiful condition. Contact Mark at marknslo@gmail.com.
- Victoria Jacks has a cactus in Nipomo that is outgrowing its spot -free to anyone who wants to dig it up. Pictured at bottom right. Contact Victoria at jacksvictoria1292@gmail.com.
- 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.





GARDEN GATHERING NEWS

Thank you, Linda Drake and Jay Hieatt for hosting a Garden Gathering on Sunday September 22nd! Their second event, Linda and Jay were hosts in 2017, the first year of the Garden Gathering events.

On September 22nd, Linda and Jay hosted back to back groups of Garden Gatherers on a blazing hot day in San Luis Obispo. With temperatures approaching 90 degrees, two small groups totaling about a dozen attendees started the tour in the cool kitchen with cold drinks and delicious snacks. There Linda gave an overview of the development of the garden which included bringing in yards of cactus soil, perlite and a great story about importing large rocks to the front yard! Perhaps the best part of her talk was her "lessons learned" which were great takeaway lessons for everyone who attended the Garden Gathering.





The attendees thoroughly enjoyed walking through Linda's front yard which is sectioned into zones with artfully crafted labels such as Mini Zen Garden, Alien Nation, Smelly Plants, World of Mesembs, Twisted Sister, Mini Cactus Garden, and Rainbow Ridge. Each area is a microcosm of special, exceptionally well-grown plants. The Smelly Plants section, for example, included a stapeliad growing a huge flower almost 8" in diameter! No one wanted to get too close to this giant smelly flower!

Linda's cacti and succulents have grown so well and, in some cases, so fast that her amenable next-door neighbor has been lucky enough to have inherited an entire front yard landscaped by Linda! The two yards run together seamlessly, and it looks fantastic!

The walk continued along Linda's side yard through her extremely well-organized potting area and into the backyard. The backyard might be small, but it is mighty in its quantity and quality of perfectly grown cacti and succulents. Linda had special steel shelving created and welded for her back and side yards. They are works of art that show off Linda's absolutely extraordinary collection of perfectly grown plants. What a stunning addition they have created to her backyard since our first visit!

If you have not had a chance to visit this extraordinary oneof-a-kind garden, you should not miss the next opportunity!

Thank you, Linda and Jay, for sharing your fantastic garden with our members. They definitely experienced 4 to 5 times the usual garden in one fifth the amount of space!

The next Garden Gathering (October 5th), at Harry and Mary Harlow's will be recapped in the next newsletter!

Photos of Linda & Jay's garden provided by club member Sarah Warisi.

More pics on the next page.





GARDEN GATHERINGS - DRAKE GARDEN CONTINUED









We are actively recruiting Garden Gathering Hosts for 2020 --Let us know if you would like to host an event!

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!



CCCSS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP!

The Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society would not be possible without the people who volunteer at our meetings, events, and on our Board. If you enjoy our club, community, and shared passion for cacti and succulents, it is because of those people behind the scenes making it happen. If you have thought about doing more to support the club, or to contribute your particular talents, or if you just want more involvement with our community, then you are in luck!

Our fiscal year will begin on July 1st, and with that, we will need several Officer positions filled. Yes it is only October, but it's not too early to begin thinking about increasing your involvement, or perhaps trying out a different role, if you are already serving CCCSS in some capacity. The following is a list of positions and their requisite duties. Please give some serious thought to raising your hand for one of these positions. The eligibility requirement to serve as an officer is 6 months membership with CCCSS. Thorough training will be provided for all positions.

CLUB PRESIDENT

The President shall be the principal executive officer of the organization and shall, in general, supervise and control all of the Society's affairs, preside at monthly membership meetings and chair the Board of Directors meetings.

VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform all duties incidental to the office of President. They are also responsible for arranging programs for the Monthly Membership Meetings. Programs may consist of a speaker, a demonstration, or a discussion on any topic that promotes the objectives of the club. A list of 50 previous and potential speakers with their contact information is available which makes this position so much easier.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

The Membership Officer shall maintain a list of the Society's current members, including membership date, type and status. Also, from this, to produce a roster of member contact information that can be distributed monthly to the Board for distribution of the club newsletter, and as needed.

PUBLICITY CHAIR

As the Publicity Officer you would be responsible for assuring that Society events, including Monthly Membership Meetings and the Show and Sale, are publicized to the public in such generally available forums as newspapers, magazines, social media, and radio as agreed upon by the Board.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The editor will collect submissions and content from members for inclusion in the monthly newsletter. This position includes considerable leeway and editorial freedom. Graphic design experience is helpful but not necessary. However, fluency with computers and basic software navigation is a must. This is a fun and important position for someone who would enjoy being a creative ambassador for the Club.



SLO BOTANICAL GARDENS – UPCOMING EVENTS

TOLTEC RITUALS TO RECLAIM LIFE AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN

Sunday October 20, 11am-4pm

Join Toltec Spiritual Leader, Armando Cruz Sanchez, for an experiential workshop. Learn and practice individual and group rituals for cleansing, union, expansion of awareness, reclaiming life, and giving thanks. Tap into your perceptive power and learn to direct your energy to manifest your truest desires. More info at slope.cru.

Location: San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd

Cost: \$60 Garden Members, \$70 Public

Event contact phone number: 805-541-1400 x 304

HERBAL MEDICINES FOR COUGH AND COLDS AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN

Friday October 25, 6pm-8pm

Join Dr. Anne Kennard as she shares remedies for different types of cough and how to reduce or eliminate the time you spend feeling crummy with a cold. Ease your cold and cough with prepared teas, tinctures, and glycerides made especially for YOU. Attendees take home a personalized, hand-crafted herbal remedy and a plan of action for staying healthy. All materials provided.

Location: San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd

Cost: Garden members \$55, public \$65

Event contact phone number: 805-541-1400 x 304

ART SHOW AND FUNDRAISER AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN

Friday November 15, 4:30-8pm, Saturday and Sunday 16-17, 10am-5pm

Join artists on Friday at 4:30pm for a ribbon cutting ceremony followed at 5pm by a wine and appetizer reception and shopping until 8pm. Fifteen amazing local artists displaying and selling handmade items to benefit the SLO Botanical Garden. Get your holiday shopping done in one spot, there'll be something for everyone. More info at slobg.org.

Location: San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd

Cost: FREE to attend.

Event contact phone number: 805-541-1400 x 304

ABOUT SAN LUIS OBISPO BOTANICAL GARDEN

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is celebrating its 30th year of sowing seeds and growing together. The Garden is located at 3450 Dairy Creek Rd. It is spread out on 150 acres in El Chorro Regional Park off Highway 1 between Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo. When the master plan is complete, the Garden will be the only garden of its kind in the United States exclusively devoted to the ecosystems and plants of the five Mediterranean climate regions of the world. Through its programs and facilities, the Garden fosters an appreciation and understanding of the relationship between people and nature and encourages a sense of stewardship for the natural environment. To learn more visit slobg.org, or the SLO Botanical Garden Facebook page.



FRIDAY, OCT. 25 SATURDAY, OCT. 26

Noon to 6 p.m. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CAL POLY HORTICULTURE UNIT



STUDENT-GROWN QUALITY SUCCULENTS

WATER-THRIFTY JEWELS, COLORFUL,
TEXTURED PLANTS FOR PATIO OR GARDEN

SEPTMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

President Loring Manley began the meeting at 2pm, September 8, 2019, with approximately 95 members and guests.

Loring thanked the members who brought refreshments and those who helped clean-up after our last meeting. All were invited to choose a free plant as a thank-you. He noted that sign-up sheets are at the back of the room for these monthly volunteer duties. He also thanked the volunteers who staff the tables at each meeting (Membership, Library, Sales, etc) and reminded everyone to check them out during the break.

Six first-time visitors were invited to come up and introduce themselves to the group and also select a free plant.

Announcements:

- Loring announced that 5 Board positions will need to be filled in the coming fiscal year. A listing of the positions with responsibilities will appear in the October Newsletter.
- Barbara Brooks told everyone that if they didn't receive their September newsletter It probably means that they are delinquent on their dues. She also mentioned that name tags for new members are at the back table.
- Susan Ross announced upcoming Garden Gatherings at Linda Drake's on 9/22 and the Harlow's on 10/5.
- Barbara Brooks announced a workshop in October to create centerpieces for the December Holiday Dinner
- Mary Perraca announced the October Open Studios event coming up. More info at <u>artsobispo.org</u>.
- Loring reminded everyone that there is a Wish List sign-up sheet on the back table for those looking to buy, sell, give away, or trade plants. Wish List entries will be published in the Newsletter.

Rob Skillin discussed the Plant of the Month (Mammillaria). He also thanked those who brought plants for the Brag Table and invited them up to talk about their plants. Lastly, he reviewed the special plants on the Raffle Table.

After a short break, Rob Skillin presented a very informative program called "Kenya, Land of Tropical Succulents".

After the program came the raffle, plant exchange and Hall cleanup. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Submitted by Ann L. Byrne, CCCSS Secretary

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

The Board meeting was called to order by President Loring Manley at 4:50pm.

Board members and guests present: Barbara Brooks, Ann Byrne, Natasha Erickson, Bill Findley, Pat Gilson, Kathy Goss, Terrie Leivers, Loring Manley, Carol Mortensen, Rob Skillin and Terry Skillin. (Quorum present)

Old Business:

- Approval of August Minutes (Ann Byrne)
- Treasurer's Report (Kathy Goss)
- **New/Other Business:**
- Approve Rob Skillin's Honorary Membership
- · BOD Calendar review
- ROCT raffle registration and report
- Annual Membership Fees delinquent

- Budget Summary
- · Data repository (dropbox or other) Discussion
- Initial planning for December Potluck
- Select Person(s) to run silent and live Auctions
- Bus Trip to Huntington
- · More Phishing activity reported
- Club Officer Recruitment Discussion

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

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!

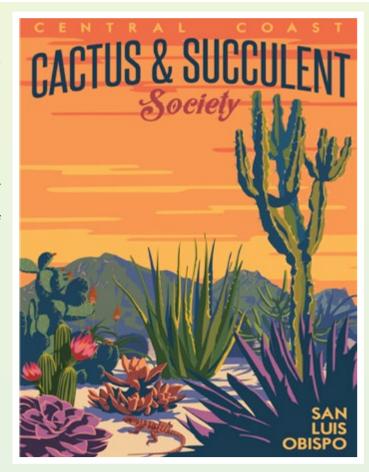
The profit from every piece of this beautiful cactus and succulent art sold by CCCSS goes to CCCSS! Thank you, **Ken McGavin** and **Ralph Gorton** of Just Looking Gallery, for your kindness and generosity! Just Looking Gallery is located at 746 Higuera Street in Suite 1, San Luis Obispo.

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.



CCCSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

President: Loring Manley

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

Newsletter submissions (deadline is 2 weeks prior to the

next member meeting): marknslo@gmail.com



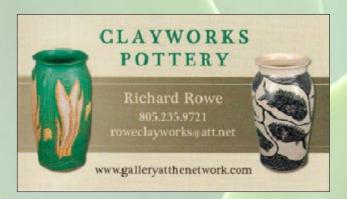
800+ Facebook members! View club updates & member photos. Also find us online at www.centralcoastcactus.org.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

Click on images to visit the websites of these businesses or to contact them via email. You can advertise on these pages by becoming a Business Member of CCCSS.

















BUSINESS MEMBERS - CONTINUED

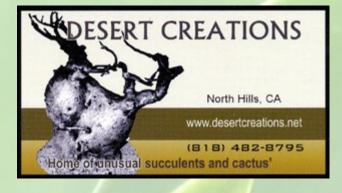


GUYLA CALL AMYX

ceramic artist

550 Mimosa St. Morro Bay, CA 93442

805.234.7237 guyla@charter.net amyxart.com





Cal Seedling Co.
Jenna Cismowski
Assist. Office Mgr/Customer Service

1149 Arboles Way Arroyo Grande Ca 93420 805-489-6548 jenna@calseedling.com www.calseedling.com







- We Have Four Locations To Serve You -

224 Tank Farm Road San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805.543.3751 • FAX 805.543.0613

1079 El Camino Real Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 805.489.5514 • FAX 805.473.7263 1108 Paso Robles Street Paso Robles, CA 93446 805.238.1177 • FAX 805.238.3527

1920 N. Broadway Santa Maria, CA 93454 805.922.2737 • FAX 805.922.6982

