

ON THE DRY SIDE

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2020

FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER: TOM GLAVICH



EXPLORING EUPHORBIAS

Tom's presentation is a whirlwind tour of the enormous Genus Euphorbia. It starts by looking at the geographical variation in the genus, concentrating on those things that are similar and those that are different. The talk continues with a look at mutant Euphorbias, preparation of Euphorbias for show (yay!), propagation and Euphorbias in the garden.

Tom Glavich is a long time grower of succulent plants and exotic bulbs. He is the author of many articles in the Cactus and Succulent Society Journal and the author of a book on Succulent monocots. He is a frequent speaker on horticultural topics in Southern California and beyond. He is one of the co-chairs of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show held each August at the LA Arboretum in Arcadia, California.

He will bring plants to sell!



Euphorbia millii at HBG



Euphorbia squarrosa

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH AT 2PM

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

PLANT OF THE MONTH: GASTERIA

(Originally published by Tom Glavich in 2003)

Gasteria are a popular and easily grown genus of plants that has been collected and kept as house plants since the 17th century. They are readily distinguished from Aloe and Haworthia (both very close relatives) by the shape of their flowers. Gasteria flowers are carried on a long scape (leafless flower stalk). They generally hang down as they open, and have a swollen (gasteriform) portion at the base of the flower. The word Gasteria comes from the Greek “gaster” meaning stomach or belly.

Gasteria vary in size from about an inch to several feet in diameter. Almost all plants start out with the leaves in two rows (distichous), although most eventually begin to spiral, either remaining in a distichous spiral, or changing into a rosette form. Gasteria are very variable in appearance. They have definite juvenile and adult forms, have local variations in appearance, and have form and growth habits that are dependent on the soil type and amount of sunlight.

Typical natural habitats are humus rich, sandy soils. They grow on dry rocky hillsides and generally grow under larger shrubs, particularly when young. They also can be found in rock fissures or in the shade of large rocks. The roots are shallow and thick which helps the plants obtain moisture from barely wet soils, and nourishment from decaying leaves and debris from larger shrubs.

Gasteria cultivation is easy. They are mostly winter and spring growers, but exhibit some growth all year except for the hottest part of the summer. They are tolerant of almost any growing mix, although they do best with high organic content mixes, similar to their natural growing conditions. They prefer partial shade, particularly in the afternoon; however the best color is obtained by giving them as much light and sun, short of sunburn, as possible.

Gasteria are generally free from most pests. The one difficulty is ‘black spot’, a fungus that attacks many Gasteria. The fungus is rarely fatal, but causes large unsightly black spots on the leaves. There is no way to remove the spots, and since the leaves remain on the plants for several years, the fungus can quickly ruin show plants. The fungus can be minimized by keeping the leaves dry, and particularly keeping dew off the leaves. It can be prevented by regular application of systemic fungicides, but vigilance is required. Funginex is a popular rose fungicide that works fairly well on controlling black spot.

Gasterias are readily propagated from offsets at the base, which can be simply pulled off and planted. Leaf cuttings will also root easily. Gasterias left in the open in California will be rapidly pollinated by hummingbirds, although the resulting seed is then an uncontrolled and unknown hybrid. Controlled pollination is easily accomplished with a small brush, or toothpick. Seed can be collected as soon as the fruits start to dry.

Gasteria hybridize easily, and cross pollination can produce interesting plants. Many hybrids are available, as are several variegated cultivars. Examples of both are shown above. Intergeneric hybrids with Aloes and Haworthias are also available.



From the top:
Gasteria pillansii var ernesti-ruschii
(photo by Fred Dortort)

G pillansii (photo by Rob Skillin)

G brachyphylla (photo by Loring Manley)

Plant of the Month selected by
Markus Mumper

CLUB BULLETIN BOARD

CCCSS MEMBERS' PLANT WISH LIST

If you have plants to share, or are looking for something yourself, you can sign up at the next meeting. The Wish List signup sheet is at the back table during meetings.

Your preferred contact info will be included in the newsletter with your post.

- **Denise Wharton** is looking for **Oxalis**, and can be reached at whartonde@att.net.
- **Tim Dawson** wants an **Aloe castanea** (plant or seed), and can be reached at **805-610-9533**.
- **Margaret Moreno** would like a **Tephrocactus geometricus** (plant), and can be reached at **805-710-0213**.

CCCSS ANNUAL SHOW & SALE COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Our 2020 annual Show & Sale is coming up and we are currently putting our S&S Committee together. If you've wanted to get more involved with the club as a volunteer, this is a really fun way to help plan and execute our signature annual event.

If you're interested in volunteering for the committee, please contact club president Loring Manley with questions or sign up at loring.manley@icloud.com.

Please consider volunteering to be on the S&S Committee!

ANNUAL SHOW & SALE T-SHIRT CONTEST

Open to all CCCSS members:

Would you like to see your design on the t-shirts for this year's Show & Sale (May 23rd and 24th)? Can you come up with an original design that would include succulents, cactus or more? The contest is coming up and soon!

Artwork needs to be emailed to Bill Findley by March 26th (coolcactuskid805@gmail.com). Voting on the design will happen at the April 12th meeting and we will have the shirts for sale at the May 10th meeting.

- **All contest entrants need to bring a color printout for display at the April 12th meeting**, to be voted on by the members present. The print must be large enough for people to see (11x17 is a good size), and your entry must also be emailed to Bill in PDF format by the deadline date. Hand-drawn designs are acceptable, but a scan still needs to be emailed to Bill, and if the design wins, the original artwork will need to be provided to Bill right away for a high resolution scan for shirt-printing.
- Try to keep it simple — details get lost in the printing process. Keep the color pallet simple for best printing. Colors that fade into other colors (such as water colors) are a real challenge to print on a shirt.
- Your design must include the plant name(s), and the words "Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society 14th Annual Show & Sale 2020."
- **All designs must be sent to Bill in PDF format, others do not work as well and will not be accepted.** If you are having issues with putting your design into PDF format, please contact Bill **before** the March 26th deadline!
- **All voting must be done in person, at the meeting** — no votes will be counted that are emailed or called in.

Shirt color will be picked by the board members after the winner has been chosen. Please don't wait until the last minute to e-mail Bill Findley if you have questions: coolcactuskid805@gmail.com.

Have fun and good luck!

EVENTS OF INTEREST TO CCCSS MEMBERS

PROPAGATION WORKING GROUP JANUARY EVENT

Gene Schroeder was host and mentor for the January Propagation Working Group meeting. We compared notes on the progress of the Aloe seedlings we started at the October meeting, Gene demonstrated Aloe pollination, and we potted up seedlings to bigger pots.

Those interested in joining the PWG can sign up at the next CCCSS meeting or contact:

Loring Manley: loring.manley@icloud.com

Bill Findley: coolcactuskid805@gmail.com



GARDEN GATHERINGS

We are pre-planning 3 Garden Gathering events at the present time. Our hosts include Ann Erb and John Kopp in Nipomo in May, M'Lou Mayo in Los Osos in the Spring, and Marisa Ochej in Nipomo in August or September.

Let us know if you are interested in hosting a Garden Gathering event!

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 these events and they are open to CCCSS members. The host decides the number of guests, and selects the date and time for the event, which usually lasts up to 1½ hours. Event planning, organization, sign-up, and email coordination with guests is capably managed by Susan and Kathie!

To sign up to host an event, or for more info:

Susan Ross: susanrosscra@yahoo.com

Kathie Matsuyama: luvbigdogs@earthlink.net

MIKE BUSH SUCCULENT PRESENTATION

CCCSS member Mike Bush, manager of the orchids and succulents at the Cal Poly Horticulture Unit, will be giving a presentation on succulents to the Los Osos Valley Garden Club:

February 13 at 1pm:

Daisy Hill Mobile Estates (in the clubhouse in front)
1595 Los Osos Valley Rd, Los Osos, CA.

This is their February. meeting, so there will be some business discussion as well. Mike will be selling succulents at this meeting. You will remember him as one of the vendors with beautiful plants at our own January meeting.

CENTRAL ARIZONA CSS SHOW & SALE

Beautiful and bizarre cacti and succulents are on display as members of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society showcase potted specimens. Our 2020 Annual Show and Sale is open to the public and included with CACSS membership or Garden admission:

Friday and Saturday, April 3 & 4, 9am-5pm

Sunday, April 5, 9am-4pm.

Desert Botanical Garden
1201 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, Az 85008

For more information: centralarizonacactus.org

JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

President Loring Manley called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm on Sunday, January 12, 2020 and welcomed over 107 members and guests to the meeting.

Guest Speaker Presentation: Carol Mortensen introduced Jeff Chemnick, owner of “Aloes in Wonderland” who presented a very informative program covering his trip to Mexico.

Members took a short refreshment break after the program before the meeting resumed.

Recognition of Volunteers and Visitors: Loring thanked nine club members for bringing refreshments and two members who helped clean-up after the last meeting and invited them all to choose a free thank-you plant. He also mentioned that sign-up sheets are located at the back of the room for future volunteers for cleanup and refreshments.

Loring also thanked all the club members who volunteer at each meeting and he reminded everyone to check out the different club tables situated around the meeting room during the break.

Six first-time visitors were then invited up to introduce themselves and select a free plant.

Announcements:

- Kathie Matsuyama announced that she is currently recruiting 8-10 Garden Gathering hosts and hostesses for this year. The slate is wide open. Those interested should see Kathie at the “Ask Me” table during meetings.
- Loring Manley reminded everyone that there is a Wish List sign-up sheet on the back table. Wish List entries will be published in the monthly Newsletter.
- Rob announced the annual “Huntington Desert Forum” scheduled for January 18th.
- Bill Findley announced the t-shirt design contest for the 2020 Show and Sale.

Plant of the Month: Rob Skillin briefly discussed the hundreds of South African winter growing bulbs that can grow on the Central Coast with our similar climate. He also discussed some of the bulbs that were brought in by members.

Brag and Raffle Tables: Rob Skillin invited everyone who brought a brag plant to come forward to talk about their plants, before reviewing some of the extra special raffle plants.

After the Plant Raffle, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm, followed by the plant exchange and clean-up.

Submitted by: Ann Byrne, CCCSS, Secretary

JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by club president Loring Manley at 4:30 pm, with the following quorum of board members present: Barbara Brooks, Ann Byrne, Ken Byrne, Bill Findley, Pat Gilson, Harry Harlow, Terrie Leivers, Loring Manley, Carol Mortensen, Rob Skillin and Terry Skillin.

Old Business:

- Approve November 2019 meeting minutes
- Treasurer’s Report
- Select S&S Chair, order tables and publicity cards
- Field Trip Chairperson – propose spring field trip
- Renew Liability insurance for Odd Fellows

New/Other Business:

- Help with Five Cities Orchid Show in April?
- New Officer Search
- Possible New Venue for Show and Sale
- Propagation working group approval
- Caudex plant idea
- Affiliate club meetings – CGCI
- Speakers selling plants

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Submitted by: Ann Byrne, CCCSS Secretary

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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, please consider volunteering as a club officer or board member.

Our fiscal year will begin on July 1st, and with that, we will need several positions filled. The eligibility requirement to serve as an officer is 6 months membership with CCCSS. Thorough training will be provided for all positions. Following are some of the potential positions available:

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.

MEMBER AT LARGE

A Member at Large represents the general membership on issues of interest or concern, particularly those that arise outside of the standing committee structure.

Questions or interest? See any of the current Board members and they'll be happy to provide more information. Or you can email us at info@centralcoastcactus.org.

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:
marknslo@gmail.com
*Deadline is 2 weeks before the next monthly meeting.



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

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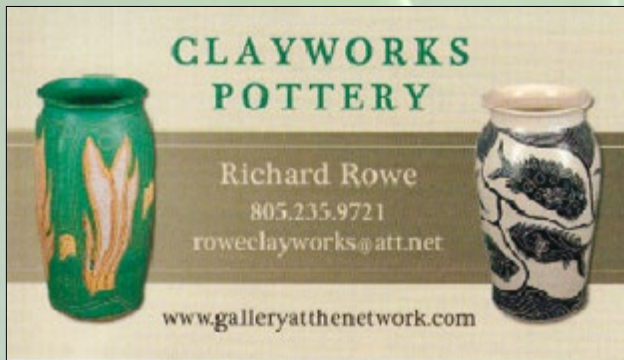


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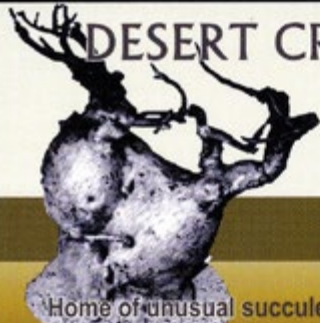


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