



ON THE DRY SIDE

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

MARCH 2020

MARCH GUEST SPEAKER: ERNESTO SANDOVAL

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals as well as Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly, "Because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 25 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

Ernesto's program supports Rob Skillin's seedling distribution and will cover "Caring for the Small & the Young (Seedling Succulents)."



CHECK OUT THE GREAT UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS ISSUE!

- *Plant & Pottery Sale Next Weekend by Jeanne Miller, Steve Super, Nick Wilkinson and Richard Rowe*
- *SLO Botanical Garden Plant Sale in Late March*
- *Rob Skillin's Open Greenhouse in April*
- *Five Cities Orchid Show in April*
- *Garden Gathering at Ann Erb's in May*
- *Our Annual Show & Sale in May, Memorial Day Weekend!*

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH AT 2PM

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

MARCH PLANT OF THE MONTH: DIOSCOREA ELEPHANTIPES

Origin: Cape of Good Hope, South Africa including the Western and Eastern Cape.

Habitat and ecology: This species has a wide tolerance of growing habitats growing in weathered rock, on dry, stony slopes, under the protection of karroid (living in the Karoo desert) bushes, etc. Pollination is done by bees and bumble bees. The plant is adapted to growing in areas with seasonal rainfall; in its natural environment it rests during the hot dry summer. *Dioscorea elephantipes* grows in the Winter and Spring months. The above ground caudex is protected by elephantine bark. It is used to extreme heat (above 100°F), but it can also take low temperatures (0°C). This plant can be grown outside in the ground in most parts of the County.

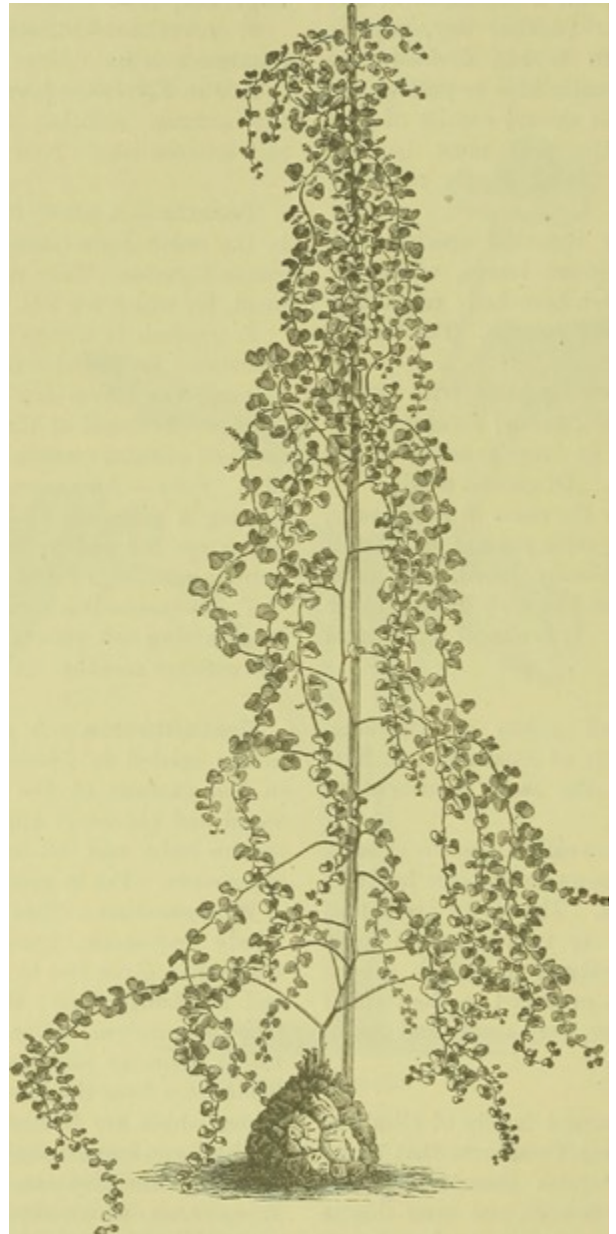
Common names include: Turtleback, Tortoise Plant, Tortoise Back Plant, Elephant foot, turtle back, elephant's foot, Hottentots' bread

Description: The elephant foot, *Dioscorea elephantipes*, is a perennial deciduous caudiciform vine belonging to the monocot yam family (Dioscoreaceae). The enlarged, exposed tuberous base is a water-storing organ called a caudex. The caudex most often reaches a diameter of 2 – 3 feet, but sometimes 9 or more feet, and is covered in tough armor-like plates. It produces a seasonal clinging growth up to 20 feet long. The leaves are heart-shaped. It bears small insignificant yellowish green flowers.

Derivation of name: *Dioscorea* is named after the ancient Greek physician and botanist Dioscorides, *elephantipes* in Latin refers to the elephant-like appearance on the outer covering of the bark.

Caudex: The large and partially exposed tuberous stem is woody-looking, firm in texture but succulent within and covered on the outside with thick greyish-brown bark that becomes deeply cracked.

Remarks: The inner flesh is rich in starch and edible, hence the name Hottentot bread, here in the States this would be very expensive and also should probably not be tried at home. This species was once nearly eradicated in the wild during the search for commercially valuable sources of steroidal saponins like diosgenin, used to synthesize cortisone and birth control pills. Fortunately, removal of plants from their habitat proved difficult and as cheaper and more viable sources of these steroids became available, collection efforts ceased.



Plant of the Month submitted
by Markus Mumper

Pictured at right:
Dioscorea elephantipes in South Africa
(photograph courtesy of Rob Skillin)

CCCSS ANNUAL SHOW & SALE 2020

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! OUR SHOW & SALE IS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 22-24.

Our volunteers are what make our Show & Sale the best. Pat Gilson will have a sign-up sheet at the back table during our membership meetings. Please note:

- 2-hour increments at least, more time is **always welcome**.
- The Show & Sale Committee is discussing a volunteer incentive and will announce it soon! Additionally, all volunteers are invited to the Pre-Sale on Friday evening from 5-7pm, to shop ahead of the crowd.
- While volunteering, please wear your name badge and a club T shirt. This year's shirts will be available for sale at the May meeting, and if you've lost your name badge, now is a good time to request a new one.
- Please take some Show postcards once they are available, to pass out and post around town.

A CALL FOR AUCTION PLANTS

Once again this year we will be having an auction during our Annual Show & Sale. Some of these plants will be provided by our vendors and some will be provided by club members, like you. If you have a show-worthy specimen with a retail value of \$50 or more and would like to sell it at the auction, please send an email to Bill Findley at coolcactuskid805@gmail.com. In your email, include at least 2 photos (one that includes something to show size, like a soda can, or pencil), the plant name (if you don't know, we can help), and a reserve price (the lowest you'd be willing to sell it for). The auction is Sunday afternoon at 1pm and the club retains 25% of the sale price. Please send your email by May 13th. The auction committee will confirm your plants' acceptance for the auction by May 18th. Please bring the auction plant to the Show and Sale for display by Saturday morning. Note: If you would like a photo of your auction plant in the May Newsletter, please email your submissions by April 22nd. If you have any questions, contact Bill!

ANNUAL SHOW & SALE T-SHIRT CONTEST

Are you a current CCCSS member who would like to see your design on the t-shirts for this year's Show & Sale? Can you create an original design of succulents or cacti? The contest is coming up, and soon! Voting on the design will happen at the April 12th meeting and we will have the shirts for sale at the May 10th meeting.

Artwork needs to be emailed to Bill Findley by March 26th (coolcactuskid805@gmail.com).

- **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 must be emailed to Bill. If your design wins, original artwork must be provided to Bill right away for a high resolution scan.
- Keep it simple, as details get lost in the printing process. Keep the color pallet simple for best printing. Colors that fade into other colors are a real challenge to print on a shirt. Shirt color will be chosen by the Board.
- Designs must include plant name, and "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.

Don't wait until the last minute! If you have questions, please email Bill Findley at coolcactuskid805@gmail.com. Have fun and good luck!

Let these previous
contest winners
inspire you!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Spring Fling ~ Plants And Pottery Sale!

March 7th & 8th (Saturday/Sunday) 10-4 each day.
2016 9th St, Los Osos (next to La Casita Restaurant)

4 CCCSS Business Members collaborating on this event!

Steve Super (Steve Super Gardens), **Nick Wilkinson** (GROW Nursery), and **Jeanne Miller** (CalCoast Succulents/The Succ Shack) will offer healthy, unusual, locally-grown succulents (and other) plants for your containers or landscape. **Richard Rowe** (Rowe Clayworks) will bring unique, handcrafted pots and amazing tillandsias (air plants).

Expert advice on selections, placement and care of your new plants. Great prices on healthy, interesting plant specimens, plus gorgeous pots to put them in. Don't miss this event!
Free and open to the public.

Questions? Please contact any of us directly with specific plant inquiries, or call **Jeanne Miller** at 805-602-7817, or email her at calcoastsucculents@gmail.com.

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 & Sale is open to the public and included with CACSS membership or Garden admission. For more information: centralarizonacactus.org

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

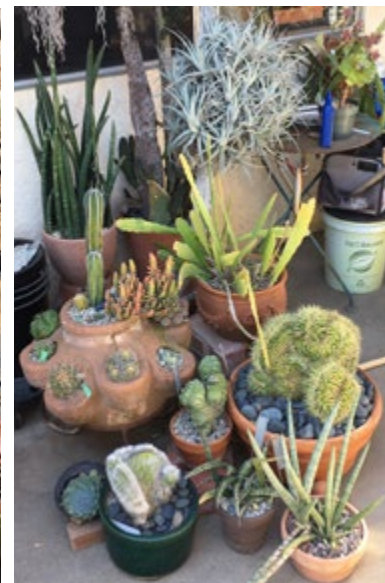
Sunday, April 5, 9am-4pm.

Desert Botanical Garden
1201 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008

GARDEN GATHERINGS

Our next Garden Gathering event is planned for Sunday May 3rd at Ann Erb and John Kopp's garden in Nipomo (pictured). Sign-ups for the event will be taken at the March meeting or contact Susan or Kathie at the email addresses below.

Are you new to CCCSS? 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!



We are looking for Garden hosts for 2020! To sign up, or for more info:

Susan Ross: susanrosscra@yahoo.com or **Kathie Matsuyama:** luvbigdogs@earthlink.net

SPRING PLANT SALE

MARCH 28, 10-1PM

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South Coast
Cactus & Succulent Society

48th

Annual Show & Sale

April 4 and 5, 2020

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274

You are invited!

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society

48th Annual Show and Sale

April 4 and 5, 2020 9am - 4pm

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd
Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274

**Garden admission required for entrance:
Effective March 1, 2020**

Adult **\$15**

Senior/Student w/ID **\$11**

Age 5-12 **\$5** Under 5 **FREE**

Garden members **FREE**

Information: southcoastcss.org
or call 310-346-6206

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the beautiful and the unusual

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25th Annual Central Coast
ORCHID SHOW & SALE

Sponsored by Five Cities Orchid Society f @

APRIL 4 & 5, 2020

Saturday 9-5 | Sunday 10-4

South County Regional Center
800 W. Branch Street
Arroyo Grande, CA

Admission: \$6
Children 12 or under Free

Show Info: FCOS.org



Oncidium N.R. Orchid Lane FCC/AOS
Grown by Bob Asbell, Arroyo Grande, CA
Photo by Chris Ehrlar

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ORCHID SHOW PREVIEW BENEFIT SUPPORTING

FRIDAY, APRIL 3



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or online at FCOS.org

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FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

President Loring Manley called the meeting to order at 2:05pm on Sunday, February 9, 2020 and welcomed over 108 members and guests to the meeting.

Loring thanked 14 club members for volunteering for refreshments and clean-up and invited them to choose a free plant as a thank you. Additionally, he recognized the club members that volunteer at each meeting and reminded everyone to check out the different club tables set up around the meeting room during the break. Two first-time visitors were invited up to introduce themselves to the group and select a free welcome plant.

Announcements:

- Loring Manley: Members interested in joining the Show & Sale Committee can sign-up with Pat. Volunteering for the Committee is separate from volunteering for the actual Show & Sale.
- Bill Findley announced the contest for the annual Show & Sale t-shirt design. More information is in the newsletter.
- Kathie Matsuyama: The following members are hosting a Garden Gathering in the coming months: Ann Erb and John Kopp in Nipomo, M'Lou Mayo in Los Osos, and Marisa Ochaj in Nipomo.
- Loring Manley: The Propagation Working Group, which meets once a month, is a small group for learning different propagation techniques. Members will be notified of activities they can sign up for. He also reminded everyone of the Plant Wish List sign-up sheet on the back table. Wish List entries will be published in the monthly Newsletter.

Plant of the Month: Rob Skillin explained that Gasterias is a popular and easily grown genus, closely related to Aloes and Haworthias, but with distinctively different flowers. More detailed information is in the February newsletter.

Brag Table and Raffle: Rob thanked everyone who brought a 'brag' plant and invited them to come forward to talk about it, before discussing the extra special raffle selections.

Program: After a brief break, Carol Mortensen introduced speaker Tom Glavich, a longtime grower of succulent plants and exotic bulbs who presented a very informative program on "Exploring Euphorbias."

The plant raffle took place after the program, and the meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm, followed by the plant exchange and clean-up.

Submitted by: Ann Byrne, CCCSS Secretary

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board President Loring Manley began the meeting at 4:35pm with a quorum of members and guests present: Barbara Brooks, Ann Byrne, Tasha Erickson, Bill Findley, Pat Gilson, Harry Harlow, Terrie Leivers, Loring Manley, Carol Mortensen, Jeff Pacham, Michelle Ralston and Rob Skillin.

Old Business:

- Five Cities Orchid Society (Jeff Pacham & Michelle Ralston)
- Approve January 2020 BOD meeting minutes (Ann Byrne)
- Treasurer's Report (Kathy Goss)
- Field Trip Chairperson – propose spring field trip
- Order S&S tables, postcards etc
- Renew Liability insurance for Odd Fellows, and Sales/Use Tax due for October - December
- New Officer search update (Ken Byrne)
- Affiliate club meetings – attendance by Members at Large

Meeting adjourned at 6pm.

Submitted by: Ann Byrne, CCCSS Secretary

New/Other Business:

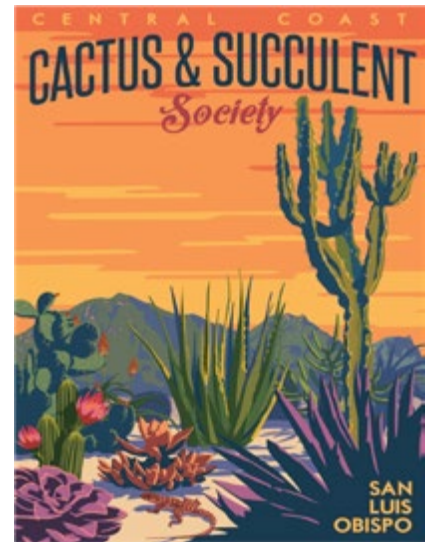
- Renewal – CGCI Group Tax Exempt Program
- Newsletter announcement – field trip
- Possible New Venue for Show and Sale
- Nominating Committee to recommend new slate of officers
- Speakers announced to Board earlier
- Propagation working group ideas

CLUB BULLETIN BOARD

BEAUTIFUL ART FOR SALE

Have you noticed the 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, CA 93401, (805) 541-6663.**



The art prices including tax: 12"x18" framed print: \$120, and 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 Ask Me Table or contact her at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net.

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 sign-up 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 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:
markslo@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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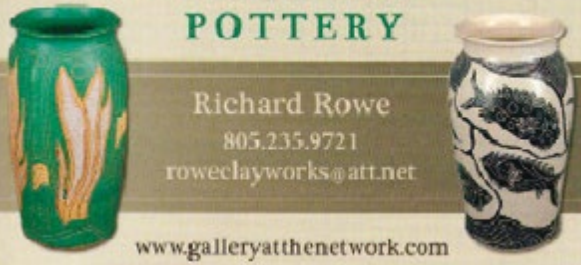
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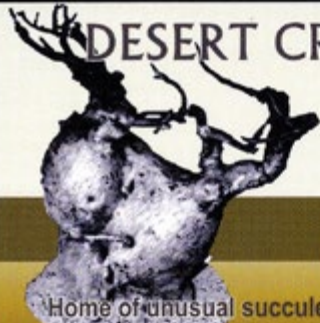
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