



# ON THE DRY SIDE

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY JULY 2020

**Our July meeting is canceled** as of this time, and until further notice all meetings are cancelled. We will make every attempt to keep you informed of updates.

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- June Plant of the Month: *Thelocactus*
- Membership
- Announcements
- Summer Celebration Sale Review

## PLANT OF THE MONTH:

### *Thelocactus*

The arid lands of the southern Texas and the central Mexico plateau are home to many cacti among which are *Thelocactus* [From the Greek *thele* which means "nipple" - making reference to the tubercles.] These are small to medium sized plants with beautiful spination and showy flowers. Since their first introduction in Europe in the nineteenth century they have been very popular among collectors mainly for their appearance, free-flowering habit and ease of cultivation. The genus is small, made up of about 15-20 entities, the number varying according to the authority. The various species feature small globose or short cylindrical stems that are solitary or form small clusters. The stems have ribs that are strongly or entirely tuberculate and are often topped with stout, needle-like spines which are hooked in some species. Flowers are white, pink or yellow and often are a combination of colors, either in concentric rings or strips. The flowers are usually large in proportion to the stems and come from the top of the plant. Flowering may continue during the entire summer.

*Thelocacti* are a summer-growing genus of relatively easy cultivation that continues to be a particular prize among collectors. These plants are extremely xerophytic adapted to very dry soils and is quite susceptible to over-watering if kept in a non-ventilated place. Water



Rob Skillin: *Thelocactus matudae*



Rob Skillin: *T. phymatobelos*

— CONTINUED

sparingly and keep completely dry during winter. Mature individuals easily rot and die, especially after transplanting, so be extremely cautious with watering. Keep dry in winter or when night temperatures remain below 10° C. Water less than average if in bigger pots. Grow in an open mineral, sandy-gritty cactus

compost and provide very good drainage.



Rob Skillin: *T. hexedrophorus*



Rob S.: *Thelocactus rinconensis*, El Mezon

Feed them once during the growing season with a fertilizer specifically formulated for cactus and succulents (high potash fertilizer with a dilute low nitrogen), including all micro nutrients and trace elements diluted to 1/2 the strength recommended on the label. They thrive in poor soils and need a limited supplies of fertilizer to avoid the plants developing excess

vegetation, which is easily attacked by fungal diseases.

Thelocacti are suited for sunny-bright exposure but can tolerate light shade. However, it will do its best only with lots of sun and become stressed with inadequate light which could result in poor growth and unnatural shape. As expected they have a good heat tolerance. They are suited for airy exposures, provide very good ventilation. Nearly all problems



Rob Skillin: *T. bicolor*

occur as a result of overwatering and poor ventilation, especially when weather conditions are dull and cool or very humid.

These cacti may be attractive to a variety of insects but plants in good condition should be nearly pest-free, particularly if they are grown in a mineral potting-mix with good exposure and ventilation. Nonetheless, there are several pests to watch for:

Red spiders may be effectively controlled by misting the plants from above.



Rob Skillin: *T. conothelos v. aurantiacus* La Perdida

Mealy bugs occasionally develop at the new growth and flowers with disfiguring results but the worst types develop underground on the roots and are invisible except by their effects.

— CONTINUED

Rot is only a minor problem if the plants are watered and “aired” correctly. If they are not, fungicides won't help all that much.



Thank you to Markus Mumper for the text and Rob Skillin for your photography in this article.



Rob Skillin: *Thelocactus hexaedrophorus*, La Perdida

They are propagated from seed nearly always since the plant rarely produces plantlets. The seeds can be sown in pots of fine, well-drained sandy soil, any time during the spring when temperatures are warm. Cover the seeds with a fine layer of grit and water from below with a fungicide to prevent damping off. For the first 1-2 weeks cover the pots to keep the humidity levels high. Remove the glass and replace it with light shade-cloth and mist once or twice a day for the next two weeks after which most seeds should have germinated. From then on mistings can be reduced to every second and then every third day as the little plants grow.

Rob Skillin: *T. schwarzii*



Rob Skillin: *Thelocactus conothelos*

## 2020 - 2021 CCCSS Membership Dues are Payable Now



Dear CCCSS Members,

This year your membership renewal dues for 2020 – 2021 are payable only by mail. Please pay by check, made payable to CCCSS. Dues are as follows: Individual - \$20; Family, all under same roof - \$25; Business, \$40. Please mail your dues to Terry Skillin, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420. Please take a moment to renew your dues today. A membership application is not needed unless there are changes to your current membership status. Applications can be found online at <https://centralcoastcactus.org/home/membership-information/>

Thank you and stay safe.  
Terry Skillin, Membership Chairperson

## **San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden: A Call For Artists** **ART IN THE GARDEN SHOW AND FUNDRAISER**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – Art in the Garden is an opportunity for artists to show and sell their work to community members.

This juried art event will be held at the Garden's Event Pavilion on November 6th, 7th, & 8th.

Last year over 1000 people visited the Art in the Garden event, and this year we expect more! Artists will be selected to give visitors exposure to a variety of art mediums. We invite you to submit an application to participate in this Fall's Art in the Garden.

To participate in this art show and sale, please visit [slobg.org](http://slobg.org), review the **Call for Artists** document, then complete and email the **Artist Application** to [heather@slobg.org](mailto:heather@slobg.org).

Scholarships are available thanks to our sponsors at The Coastal Awakening.

Please contact [heather@slobg.org](mailto:heather@slobg.org) for a scholarship application.

The art show fundraiser will feature 20 local artists. This juried show will include jewelry, glass, paintings, graphics, wood, ceramics, and textiles. All art will be for sale and a portion of all sales will benefit the SLO Botanical Garden.

The event is free to attend and will be held in the Oak Glen Pavilion at the SLO Botanical Garden.

**All art will be for sale and a portion of all sales will benefit the SLO Botanical Garden.**

For more information visit [slobg.org](http://slobg.org)!

***Please note:** Scheduled events may change, please be sure to contact the venue for more info and updates.*



1100+ Facebook members! View club updates and photos. Also find us online at [www.centralcoastcactus.org](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org).



Hello folks,

Join us for a new Webinar: CSSA presents Rod Haenni:  
“[Secrets of Success with Cacti/Succulents in Cold Climates](#)”  
Saturday, July 11, 10:00 PDT

My passion for cacti and succulents that could thrive in a cold climate began 42 years ago when I traveled the Colorado Plateau and the Southwest desert as a minerals geologist, looking for uranium deposits. Cacti, yuccas, and agaves were commonly seen in my travels and I wondered what I could grow in Denver.

Today, I grow thousands of plants outdoors and in the lightly heated conservatory of my one acre microclimate - based succulent gardens . I have traveled the world to see what exotic cacti and succulents might be hardy in Patagonia, South Africa , and from European collections. I am an adventurous seed grower and utilize a wide network of other growers, nurseries and seed brokers, always expanding my search for new cold - tolerant succulents.

We hope to see you!  
Gunnar Eisel, Executive Director

Register: “[Secrets of Success with Cacti/Succulents in Cold Climates](#)”

Are you a CSSA member? Please join us! <http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/>





## In Case You Missed this Sale . .

Four of our CCCSS members staged an outstanding sale June 26 & 27 in Los Osos: *Steve Super from Steve Super Gardens, Richard Rowe from Rowe ClayWorks, Jeanne Miller from Cal Coast Succulents/ The SuccShack and Nick Wilkenson from Grow Nursery and Botanica Nova Landscaping.*

As Steve Super said, "It was a GREAT sale. Really good attendance and nearly everyone wore masks and were respectful of distancing. Thank you to all of the club members and shoppers that stopped by to score some great plants and pottery! We will definitely be doing it again soon." So, stay tuned!

### Richard Rowe



#### Welcome!

Beauty and function blend together under the hands of this gifted artist. As an artist, no two pieces are alike - just like the plants, animals and people! Clay has been Richard Rowe's livelihood and passion for the last 40 years. His studio is on the Central Coast of California which gives much inspiration to his art.

Links to find Rowe Pottery:

- [www.fionableu.com](http://www.fionableu.com)
- [www.grownursery.com](http://www.grownursery.com)
- [www.centralcoastcactus.org](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)
- [www.artsobispo.org](http://www.artsobispo.org)
- [www.parkstreetgallery.com](http://www.parkstreetgallery.com)

Etsy Shop - [www.etsy.com/shop/RoweClayworks?ref=ss\\_profile](http://www.etsy.com/shop/RoweClayworks?ref=ss_profile)



### Steve Super

**Steve Super Gardens** is located in Los Osos, one of only five Mediterranean regions found on earth and our climate allows us to grow a large pallet of some of the worlds most amazing plants. With strong focus on drought-tolerant plants, we carry not only rare and unusual species and cultivars but many old, hard to find favorites as well. We also breed a lot of our own new and exclusive plants and are always on the lookout for new and fantastic treasures to share with our fellow plant lovers. With over 30 years of experience in the business, we pride ourselves in the quality of our plants.



## Jeanne Miller

I grow succulents and cacti here in Los Osos, and sell only the plants that love our Mediterranean climate! My plants thrive outdoors year-round with no greenhouse. I sell most plants in standard nursery pots, and also carry some high-end handmade clay artist pots for collectors. **CalCoast Succulents** is a woman-owned business. I specialize in free advice to new plant enthusiasts, and in helping people find just the right plant for their needs. My prices are reasonable and my mobile farm stand, 'The Succ Shack', allows me to bring my plants directly to my customers or to their events.



Taking a cue from pop-up food trucks, I decided to create a colorful mobile farm stand. With the help of another good friend, Mike and I built The Succ Shack - a pop-up sales trailer - which I had a grand time painting. It's perfect for transporting and selling our home-grown plants! We sell locally at Los Osos Rexall Drugs. I started an Etsy shop (TheSuccShack). We've joined forces with Steve Super Gardens and Rowe Clayworks, creating a collaborative

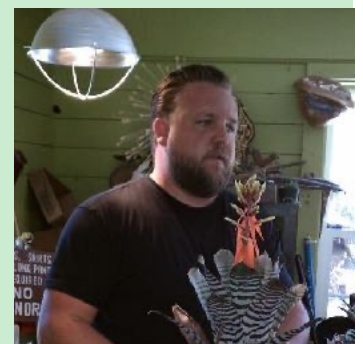


#wegrowslo 'hashtag' to cross-promote our three Etsy businesses as well as events such as last weekend's Summer Celebration Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale (with guest vendor Nick Wilkinson/GROW Nursery). Running a small business is challenging and ours is no exception, but it sure is fun to bring people and plants together.

## Nick Wilkinson



We are a small retail nursery located in the East Village of beautiful Cambria, California. We specialize in rare and unusual succulents as well as handmade pottery. Tillandsias and mineral specimens from around the world. We are located in the Garden Shed property.



## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

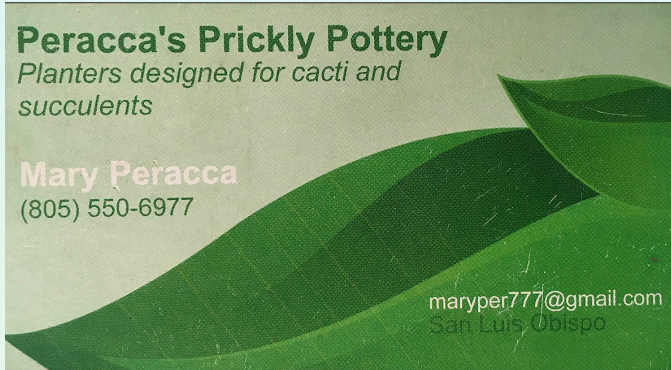
Please try to support local businesses as much as possible, including our valued Business Members on these pages. Click on images to visit their websites or to contact them via email. Many will take online or phone orders. Some are now on Etsy!

You can advertise on these pages by becoming a Business Member of CCCSS.

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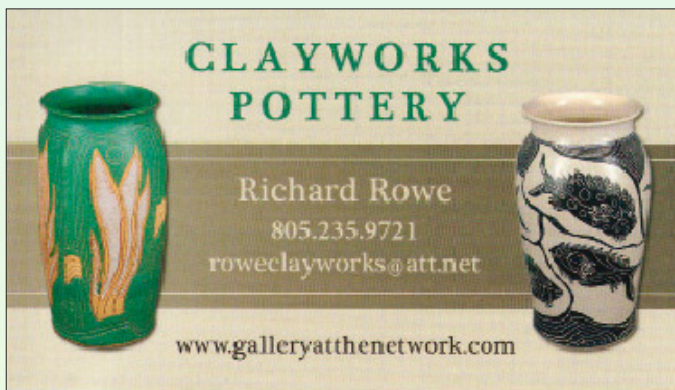
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## CCCSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

July is the month that we traditionally change club officers. Therefore, we are transitioning this month and will hold a vote of the members to verify the new Board of Directors upon our return to the next membership meeting.

The incoming board members are:

President	Harry Harlow
Vice President	Bill Findley
Secretary	Ann Byrne
Treasurer	Kathy Goss
Publicity	Mary Harlow
Hospitality	Pat Gilson
Membership	Therese Skillin
Past President	Loring Manley
CSSA Affiliate	Rob Skillin
Member-at-large 1	Natasha Erikson
Member-at-large 2	open
Member-at-large 3	open
Newsletter Editor	Carol Mortensen

**General Club Email Address:**

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